

# **JOKES AND FUNNY STORIES**







**ЧИТАЕМ  
ПО-АНГЛИЙСКИ**

# JOKES AND FUNNY STORIES

For 5th — 11th forms  
of the secondary schools

*Compiled, adapted and commented  
by A. L. DIMENT*



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# ШУТКИ И СМЕШНЫЕ РАССКАЗЫ

Книга для чтения  
на английском языке в 5—11 классах  
средней школы

Составление, адаптация и комментарий  
А. Л. ДИМЕНТ





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Книга состоит из 10 разделов, включающих шутки и анекдоты по темам: «Малыши», «Школьники», «Взрослые», «Еда», «Спорт», «Покупки», «Здоровье», «Путешествия», «Изобразительное искусство, музыка, литература, театр, кино, цирк», «Знаменитые люди». Внутри разделов шутки расположены по степени нарастания языковых трудностей. Тексты построены на доступном учащимся фактическом и лексико-грамматическом материале и снабжены комментариями. Предназначена для учащихся 5—11 классов средней школы. Может быть использована и в школе с углубленным изучением английского языка.

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вились и за  
внеклассной  
инсценировк  
вечера или

Действие  
кобритании  
посмеетесь,  
жизни в эти  
язык вы изу

В книге  
по степени  
к более сло  
тексты, незн  
водом на ру  
в которых с  
Надеюсь  
пользу.



## Дорогие ребята!

В этой книжке вы найдете шутки и короткие забавные истории на разные темы: «Малыши», «Школьники», «Взрослые», «Еда», «Спорт» и др. Эти шутки вы сможете читать дома, а в классе, на уроке, рассказывать те из них, которые вам больше всего понравились и запомнились. Книжку также можно использовать и во внеклассной работе на английском языке: например, подготовить инсценировку какой-либо шутки или рассказа для школьного вечера или концерта.

Действие большинства шуток и рассказов происходит в Великобритании или США. Таким образом, читая их, вы не только посмеетесь, но и узнаете некоторые интересные подробности о жизни в этих странах, лучше познакомитесь с людьми, чей родной язык вы изучаете.

В книге 10 разделов (по количеству тем). Шутки расположены по степени нарастания языковых трудностей — от самых легких к более сложным. Чтобы вам было легче читать и понимать тексты, незнакомые слова и выражения с транскрипцией и переводом на русский язык помещены после тех шуток и рассказов, в которых они встречаются.

Надеюсь, что эта книга доставит вам удовольствие и принесет пользу.

*Составитель*



# LITTLE CHILDREN



1

Mother: Why is your dress dirty? And your hands are dirty too. When did you see me in a dirty dress and with dirty hands?

Alice: I didn't see you when you were a little girl.

2

Young woman (to a little boy): Why don't you comb your hair?

Jim: No comb, Miss.

Young woman: Couldn't you take your father's comb?

Jim: No hair, Miss.

to comb [kəʊm] — причёсывать

3

Man: Why, boy, you're so short for your age!

Little boy (proudly): I'm so busy. I've no time to grow.

4

Mother: Nelly, did you wash your hands before dinner?

Nelly: Of course, Ma. You can see it if you look at the towel.

5

Father: Can you forgive a boy who struck you?

Little boy: I think I can, if he is bigger than I am.

to forgive [fɔ'gɪv] — прощать

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to forgive [fə'giv] — простить



D a n n y: Mother, may I have a nickel for an old man who is crying outside?

M o t h e r: Yes, dear. But what is the old man crying about?

D a n n y: He is crying: "Nuts, nuts, five cents a bag."

nickel — амер. монета в пять центов

cent [sent] — цент (0,01 доллара)

nut — орех

## 7

A man gave little Ann an apple.

"What must you say if you are given anything?" asked her mother.

Ann thought a little and then said: "Give me one more, please."

## 8

"You have much money, Tommy," said a man.

"Yes," said Tommy, "Ma gives me sixpence a week if I come to the table with clean hands and face."

"Sixpence is a lot of money for a little boy."

"Yes, sir, but I have to do much work for it."

## 9

L i t t l e b o y: Daddy, do you think people can live on the moon?

F a t h e r: I think they can.

L i t t l e b o y: But if they live on the moon, where do they go when the moon is very, very small?

## 10

A u n t: So you have a little sister at home. What's her name?

E d d i e: I don't know yet. I can't understand a word she says.

## 11

W o m a n: Have you any brothers or sisters?

L i t t l e g i r l: Yes, I have a brother. He is two months old.

W o m a n: You certainly love him. He is a good boy, isn't he?

L i t t l e g i r l: Yes, he is, but he cries all the night.

W o m a n: Why is that do you think?

L i t t l e g i r l: He probably thinks he's missing something on television.

to miss — пропускать

probably ['prɒbəbli] — вероятно



"Betty, I've told you again and again not to speak when grown-up people are talking but wait until they stop."

"I've tried, Mummy, but they never stop."

Mother: Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.  
Her little son: Then, Mother, let's eat all the oranges today.

Tommy was not attentive. He looked round, turned from one side to the other and sometimes did not listen at all to his father's words. In the end his angry father cried out:

"I think that everything I say to you goes in at one ear and out at the other."

Tommy thought a little and said:

"Well, I think that's what I have got two ears for."

"Freddy, can your little brother talk?" asked a friend of the family.

"No," answered Freddy. "He doesn't need to talk. All he must do is to cry, and he gets everything he wants."

Mother: What are you crying for, Tom?

Tom: Teddy hurt me.

Mother: How did he hurt you?

Tom: You see, Ma, I was going to hit him, but he ducked his head so I hit the wall.

to hurt — обидеть, сделать больно

to hit — ударить

to duck one's head — быстро наклонить голову

"Daddy, please buy me a drum."

"Oh, no. You'll play it and disturb me in my work."

"Don't worry, Dad. I'll play when you're asleep."

to disturb [dis'təb] — мешать



Little Jane and her father had a short distance to go, and the father said: "Jannie, shall we walk or take a bus?"

"I'll walk if you carry me, Daddy," was the answer.

distance ['dɪstəns] — расстояние

It was Dick's sixth birthday. He got some presents and a birthday cake with six candles. He looked at the cake and said: "I'd rather have six cakes and one candle."

candle ['kændl] — свеча

I'd rather have — Я бы предпочел





S o n n y: Mother, Dolly is using fearful swearing words.

M o t h e r: What does she say?

S o n n y: She says she won't wear those darned stockings any more.

fearful swearing words [ˈfiəfʊlˈswɛərɪŋˈwɜːdz] — ужасные ругательства

darned [dɑːnd] — 1. заштопанный;

2. проклятый, чертов

M o t h e r: The little children next door have no mother or father, and no kind Aunt Caroline. Won't you like to give them something?

L i z z i e (*with great enthusiasm*): Oh, yes, Mummy, let's give them Aunt Caroline.

next door — живущий по соседству

M o t h e r (*angrily*): You naughty boy! I'll send you to bed without supper.

N a u g h t y b o y: Well, what about my medicine that I have to take after supper?

naughty [ˈnɔːti] — непослушный

medicine [ˈmedsɪn] — лекарство

M o t h e r (*to Bobbie who has come home late for dinner*): If you wanted to play football, why didn't you ask me?

B o b b i e: Because I wanted to play.

"Daddy, do you think Mummy knows how to raise children?"

"What makes you ask that?"

"Well, she makes me go to bed when I'm wide awake -- and she makes me get up when I'm awfully sleepy."

to raise [reɪz] — 3d. воспитывать

I'm wide awake — мне несколько не хочется спать

I'm awfully [ˈɔːfli] sleepy — мне ужасно хочется спать



Tommy and Pete were twins. It was bathing time and from the twins' bedroom came sounds of laughter and loud crying. Their father went up to find out the cause.

"What's the matter up here?" he asked.

The laughing twin pointed to his crying brother.

"Nothing," he said, "only Mother has given him two baths and hasn't given me any at all."

twins — близнецы

laughter ['lɑ:ftə] — смех

cause [kə:z] — причина

Mr. Brompton is a very clever man. He has a lot of degrees after his name. Yet once he could not answer his granddaughter's question.

"Grandpa," she said, "I saw something so funny running across the kitchen floor without any legs. What do you think it was?"

Mr. Brompton thought for a long time, and at last he had to give up.

"What was it?" he asked.

"Water," replied the little girl triumphantly.

degree [di'grɪ:] — ст. ученая степень

to give up — сдаться

triumphantly [traɪ'æmɪəntli] — торжественно

Mother (to little Tommy aged five): Do you let little Willie ride your scooter?

Tommy: Oh, yes, Ma. He has longer rides than I do. You see, I run it down the hill and he rides it up.

to ride — кататься

scooter ['sku:tə] — детский самокат

Papa (severely): Did you ask Mummy if you could have that pear?

Bob (eating the pear): Yes, I did.

Papa: Be careful. I'll ask Mummy and if she says you didn't ask her, I'll punish you.

Bob: Truly, Papa, I asked her (a pause). She said I couldn't have it.

to punish — наказывать



Visitor: Well, Joe, how do you like your new sister?  
 Joe: Oh, she's all right, I think. But there are lots of things we needed worse.

things we needed worse — вещи, которые нам нужнее

## 30

Mother: Nick, I don't want you to go to Pete's house. He is a bad boy.  
 Nick: Well, Ma. Then I'll tell Pete to come to my house.

## 31

Jane: Is my birthday soon, Mummy?  
 Mother: Yes, very soon. But why do you ask?  
 Jane: I want to know if it's time to become a good little girl.

## 32

Man: What are you running for, Willie?  
 Willie: I am trying to keep two boys from fighting.  
 Man: Who are those boys?  
 Willie: Johnny Jones and me!

## 33

Kate: Ma, I want to give you a very nice birthday present. Do you know what it is? A nice blue cup.  
 Mother: But I've one blue cup, so I'll have two then?  
 Kate: No, you won't. I've just broken your blue cup.

## 34

Johnny: Let's play, Bob! You'll be my brother.  
 Bob: Let's, but it's your turn to be my brother.

it's your turn — твоя очередь

## 35

Amy: Why is it cold today?  
 Father: It is winter now. It's always cold in winter.  
 Amy: But why?  
 Father: Oh, Amy, Amy. I didn't ask my father so many questions when I was a boy.  
 Amy: That's why you can't answer my questions.



"Mummy, why does it rain?"

"To make things grow. To give up apples, plums, pears and other fruits, all kinds of vegetables, corn and flowers."

"Then why does it rain on the pavement?"

pavement ['peɪvmənt] — тротуар

## 37

Mother asked her little daughter who was reading a book: "What are you reading, dear?"

"I don't know," answered the girl.

"You don't know? You're reading aloud so you *must* know."

"I was reading aloud, Mummy, but I wasn't listening," explained the child.

## 38

Mother: Why were you fighting with Billy Brown? You mustn't do it again.

Tommy: I shan't, Ma. I know now that he is stronger than I am.

## 39

Mother (*proudly*): This is my son Freddie, Mrs. Higgins. Isn't he a bright little boy?

Freddie (*who is often shown off in public*): What was that clever thing I said yesterday, Mother?

bright [braɪt] — зд. способный, смысленый  
to show off — представлять в выгодном свете

## 40

Aunt: Why are you playing with these boys? Don't you know that they're bad?

Boy: Yes, I do.

Aunt: Why don't you play with good boys?

Boy: I don't play with good boys because their mothers don't let them play with me.

## 41

The piano teacher was to come and Ben was preparing to take his lesson.

"Did you wash your hands?" asked his mother.

"Yes."



"And your face?"

"Yes, Mother."

"And did you wash behind your ears?"

"On her side I did, Mother," was the answer.

42

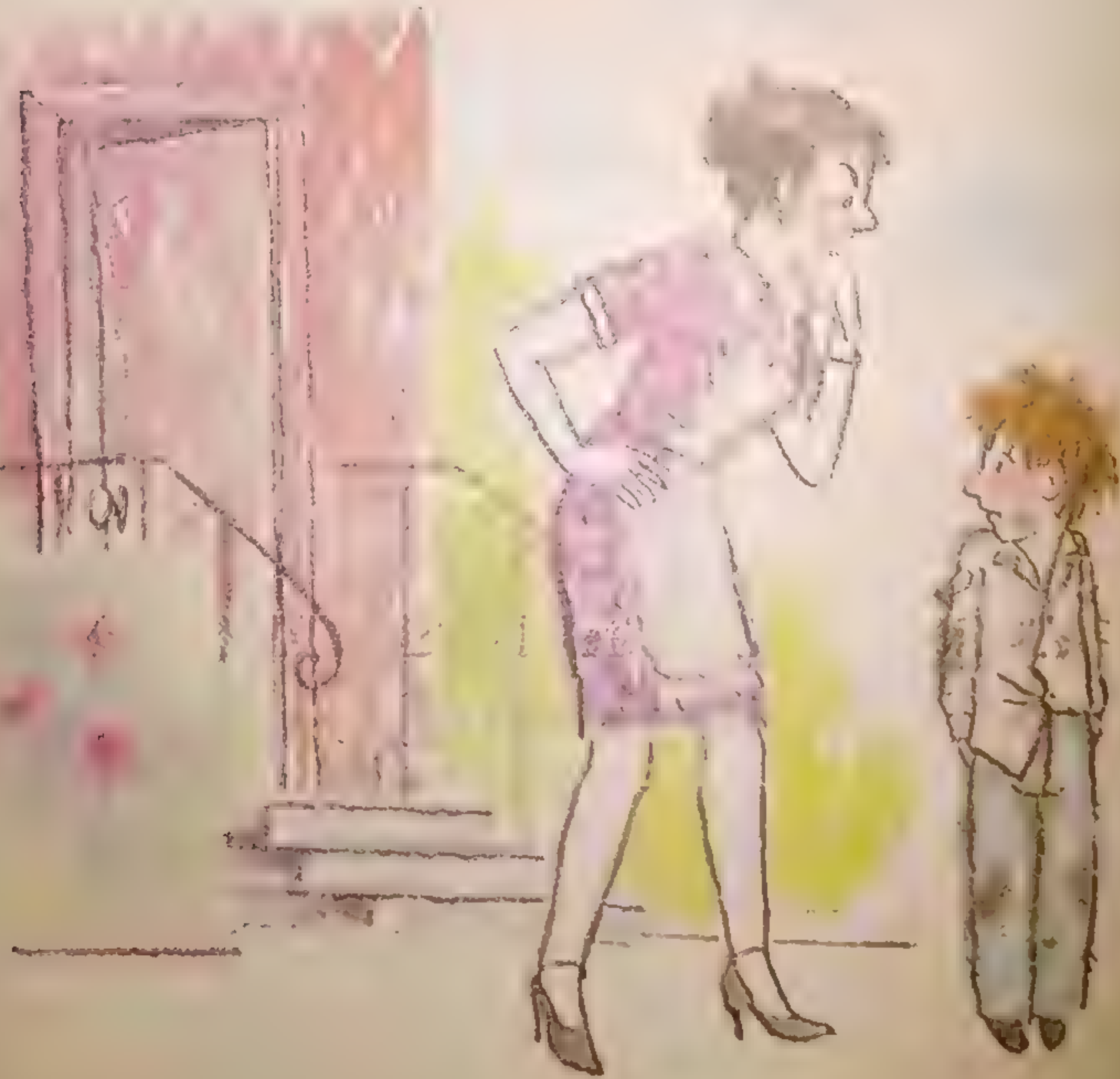
A boy came home with torn clothes, his hair full of dust and his face bearing marks of a severe conflict.

"Oh, Willie," said his mother. "You disobeyed me again. You mustn't play with that Smith boy. He is a bad boy."

"Ma," said Willie washing the blood from his nose, "do I look as if I had been playing with anybody?"

severe [sɪˈvɪə]      ZECTORM

to disobey      OCLYHATC



43

Mother (to Bobby): Do you know that Willie pulled the poor cat's tail? My little boy wouldn't do such a thing?

Bobby: No, Ma.



Mother: Why didn't you stop him, Bobby?  
Bobby: I couldn't, Ma. I was holding the cat.

44

Pete: Why are you crying?  
Nick: My brother fell into the river.  
Pete: Then why is it that you are crying and not him?  
Nick: First I laughed, and then he beat me.

45

Little Edna (*seeing her mother's new evening dress*): Oh, Mamma! How lovely! Will you wear it tonight?  
Mother: No, dear, not tonight. This is for when ladies and gentlemen come to dinner.  
Edna: Oh, Mamma! Let's pretend just for once that Papa's a gentleman.

lovely ['lʌvli] — прелестный  
to pretend [prɪ'tend] — *зд.* представлять себе

46

Father took little Kitty to the zoo. When they came home, Mother asked her little daughter:  
"What did you like best in the zoo, darling?"  
Kitty thought a little and then answered "The cake."

47

Two little girls met in the yard and began to talk about the new baby in Kitty's family.  
Jane: What makes the new baby at your house cry so much, Kitty?  
Kitty: It doesn't cry so very much—and anyway, if all your teeth were out, your hair off and your legs so weak that you couldn't stand on them, I guess you'd feel like crying yourself.

to guess [ges] — *амер.* думать, полагать  
you'd feel like crying — тебе бы хотелось плакать

48

"Did you share the three sticks of candy between your little brother and yourself?"  
"Yes, but it was awkward to divide the three, so I ate the first."

to share — разделить  
stick of candy — леденец  
it was awkward ['ɔ:kwəd] — *зд.* было трудно



Mrs. Mannerly (to her little daughter, who has just returned from tea with friends): I hope you said "No, thank you" more often than "Yes, thank you".  
 Mabel: Yes, I did. I hadn't been eating for more than half an hour before they began saying: "Don't you think you've eaten enough?", "Aren't you afraid you'll make yourself ill?" And I said "No, thank you" every time.

"Mummy, do give me another piece of sugar."  
 "But you've had three already," her mother pointed out.  
 "Just one more, Mummy."  
 "Well, this must be the last."  
 "Thank you, Mummy, but I must say that you've got no will-power."

will-power — сила воли

Little boy: Is ink so expensive, Pa?  
 Father: Why, no. What makes you think so?  
 Little boy: Well, Mother seems quite disturbed, because I spilled some on the hall carpet.

seems... disturbed [dis'tə:bɪd] — кажется, расстроиться  
 to spill — проливать

Father was sitting in an armchair one evening, when his little son came in and showed him a new penknife, which he said he had found in the street.

"Are you sure it was lost?" asked the father.  
 "Of course it was. I saw a man looking for it," replied the son.

"Willie," said his mother, "I want you to run across the street and ask how old Mrs. Johnson is this morning."

"All right, Ma," he cried and ran away.

In a few minutes he returned and said:

"Mrs. Johnson says it's none of your business how old she is this morning."

Nick: Ma, we're going to play elephants at the zoo and we want you to help us.



Mother: But what can I do?

Nick: You can be a lady who gives them sweets.

55

Woman (*to a crying child in the street*): Have you lost yourself, little boy?

Little boy: No, I haven't. I've only found a street I don't know.

56

Son: Mummy, I want a dark breakfast today.

Mother: Dark breakfast? What do you mean, child?

Son: Why, last night you told Mary to give me a light supper and I didn't like it.

light — 1. светлый;

2. легкий (*о пище*)

57

A boy is talking to a man with a telescope

Boy: Can you see everything in the sky with this telescope?

Man: Certainly, my boy.

Boy: Then where is the balloon I've lost today?

balloon [bə'lu:n] — воздушный шар

58

A mother sent her little boy to see what the barometer read. The boy went away but soon came back and said:

"Oh, it must be broken, Mummy! It reads differently every day."

to read — показывать (*о приборе*)

59

Little Mary ran into the house.

"Oh, Ma," she cried. "I'm sorry I'm late. But a horse fell down and they sent for a horse doctor, and, of course, I wanted to see him. He came at last and oh, dear, what do you think? It wasn't a horse doctor. It was only a man."

60

Man: Why are you carrying that umbrella over your head? Do you think it's raining?

Little boy: No, I don't.

Man: But the sun isn't shining either.



Little boy: No, it isn't.

Man: So why are you carrying that umbrella over your head?

Little boy: You see, when it rains, Pa wants it, when it shines, Ma wants it, so now is the only time when I can use it.

umbrella [ʌm'brelə] — зонтик

61

Mother: Please, Johnny, don't suck your thumb. One day it'll come off. What will you do if it comes off indeed?

Johnny (*after thinking for a while*): If this thumb comes off, I'll suck the other one.

to suck one's thumb [θʌm] — сосать большой палец

to come off — зд. оторваться



62

Father (*to his little boy*): Now, Patrick, if Uncle James calls, tell him that I'll be back at five o'clock.

Patrick: I see, Pa! But what shall I tell him if he doesn't call?

63

Kitty: Ma, won't you tell me?

Mother (*angrily*): What's that again? What do you want with me? Can't you stop asking silly questions?



Kitty: Well, Ma, I only want to know whether I'll be as cross as you when I'm a grown-up person.

cross — сердитый, злой

64

"What a pretty bird," says a little boy to his grandmother.

"Oh, yes," replies the old woman, "and he never cries."

"That's because he is never washed."

65

"Oh, auntie!" cried little Amy. "Make James behave himself. You see, every time I hit him on the head, he starts crying."

66

Mother: You never do what you're told, you naughty boy. If you were good, my hair wouldn't turn gray so early.

Son (*thinking for a while*): Now I see you never did what you were told. For if you had been good, Granny wouldn't have had so gray a head.

gray — седой

67

Little Bobby had got hold of the newspaper and was reading the headlines aloud: "Man Imprisoned for Deserting His Wife," he read at last.

Then after a short pause he added: "Oh, Mum — now I know why Dad doesn't leave you."

to imprison [im'prizən] — посадить в тюрьму

to desert [di'zə:t] — покинуть, оставить

68

"Ma," said a little boy after coming home from a walk, "I've seen a man who makes horses."

"Are you sure?" asked his mother.

"Yes," he replied. "He had a horse nearly finished when I saw him. He was just nailing his feet."

to nail — прибивать гвоздями

69

Once a mother was angry with her little daughter and she asked her:

"Jenny, why aren't you good?"



"You see, Ma," answered the girl, "it's hard to be good, but I can be bad without trying."

70

M a n: What are you crying for?

B o y: I've lost my penny.

M a n: Never mind. Here's another.

*(The boy takes the coin and goes on crying.)*

M a n: Why don't you stop crying?

B o y: Oh, sir. If I hadn't lost the other, I'd have two now.

71

A little boy on a bus was sniffing and sneezing. An old woman sitting next to him didn't like it. After several disapproving looks she said at last, "Boy, do you have a handkerchief?"

"Yes, madam," answered he, "but I am not allowed to lend it to strangers."

to sniffle ['snɪfl] — сопеть

to sneeze [sni:z] — чихать

disapproving ['disə'pru:vɪŋ] — неодобрительный

to lend — одалживать

72

Bobby was crying and his mother tried hard to stop it but couldn't do anything. He cried for a long time but then suddenly stopped.

"I'm glad you've stopped crying at last," said his mother. "I don't like it when you cry."

"I've not stopped," said Bobby. "I'm tired and resting a little."

73

"Daddy, you said that if I was good for half an hour, I could have what I liked."

"Well, what do you like?"

"Permission to be naughty for two hours."

permission [pə'mɪʃən] — разрешение

naughty ['nɔ:tɪ] — непослушный

74

U n c l e: Now, Ann, whom do you love most, auntie or me?

A n n: Auntie.

U n c l e: But yesterday you said you loved me most.

A n n (*doubtfully*): Yes, but I've thought it over since and decided that we women must stick together.

to stick together — *зд.* держаться вместе



Father: What a naughty boy you are today, Bobby! Didn't I give you a shilling yesterday for being good? Why can't you always be good like your cousin Jack?

Bobby: Well, Daddy, it doesn't pay. If I were good every day, who would think of giving me money for it?

it doesn't pay — это невыгодно

Mother: Children, I'm shocked. You promised me you wouldn't eat your oranges until after dinner and you deceived me.

Willie: We didn't eat our own oranges. Tommy ate mine and I ate his.

I'm shocked — я возмущена  
to deceive [di'si:v] — обмануть

"Thomas, what's the matter with your brother?" asked the boys' mother.

"He's crying," replied Thomas, "because I'm eating a banana and won't give him any."

"Is his own banana finished?" asked the mother.

"Yes, and he cried while I was eating it too."

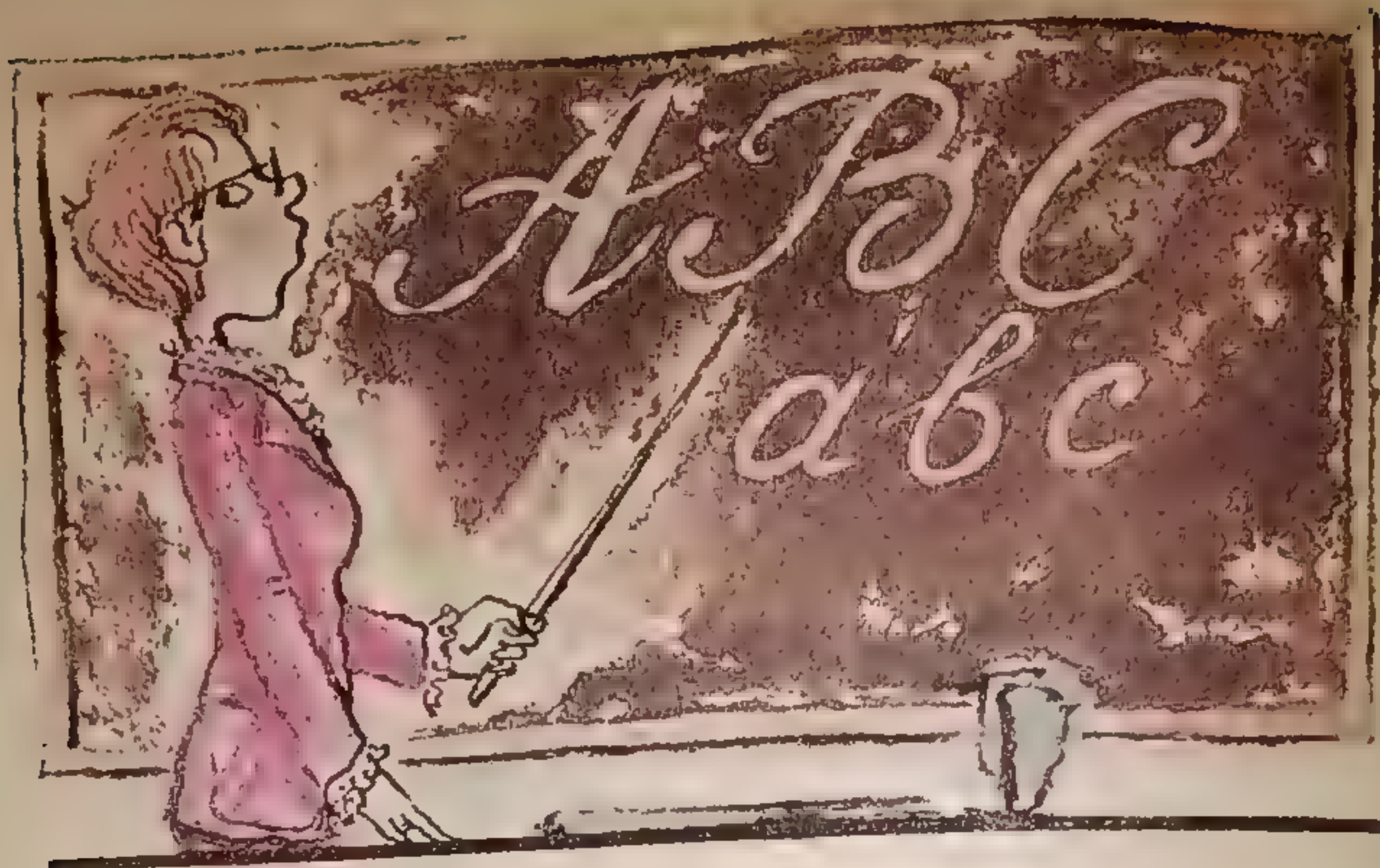
banana [bə'nɑ:nə] — банан

Father: Alice, have you eaten all the sweets without thinking of your little brother?

Alice: That's not right. I was thinking of him the whole time. I was afraid he would come before I had finished them.



# SCHOOLCHILDREN



1

Teacher (*to one of his pupils*): What are you doing, Bob?  
Are you learning?  
Bob: Oh, no, sir. I'm listening to you.

2

Teacher: Who can name five wild animals?  
Pupil: I can, sir.  
Teacher: Please name them.  
Pupil: A lion with four cubs.

cub — детеныш (зверя)

3

Teacher: Why are you late, Johnny?  
Johnny: I had to wash my neck and ears, sir, but it won't happen again.

4

Teacher: Didn't James help you do these sums, Andy?  
Andy: No, Miss, he didn't.  
Teacher: Andy, are you sure he didn't help you?  
Andy: No, Miss, he didn't help me, he did them all by himself.

5

One day a father whose son was a bad pupil said:  
"You know, Tom, when Lincoln was your age, he was the best pupil in his class."



"Yes, Dad," Tom answered, "I know that. But when he was your age, he was the President of the United States."

6

Teacher: Nick, why are you late for school every morning?  
Nick: You see, sir, when I come to the crossing I see the sign:  
"School — Go Slow."

sign [sain] — зд. дорожный знак

7

Teacher (*angrily*): Again your mother has done your homework for you!

Bob: Well, it can't be helped. My father is always so busy.

it can't be helped — ничего не поделаешь

8

Teacher: Harry, your composition is good, but Dick's is the same word for word. What must I think?

Harry: That Dick's composition is also good.

9

Little Kitty went to school for the first time. When she came home, her mother asked:

"Did you like your teacher, Kitty?"

Kitty thought a minute and then said:

"Yes, I did. But I don't think she is very clever."

"How is that?" asked her mother.

"Oh," said Kitty, "I think so because she asked us so many questions."

10

A lady came upon her friend's little son walking slowly along the street.

"Hurry up, Bill!" she called. "It's already half past nine. You're late for school."

"That's all right, ma'am," he said carelessly, "school is open all day long."

11

The teacher tells the boys about a man who always swims across the river three times before breakfast. Robert laughs.

"Don't you think a good swimmer can do that?" the teacher asks Robert.



"Yes, I do," answers Robert, "but I don't see how the man gets his clothes if he doesn't cross the river once more."

12

"Come up to the blackboard, John, and answer my question," said the teacher.

"I'm sorry —" began the boy.

"What's the matter with you?" asked the teacher. "Are you afraid of my questions?"

"Not at all," answered John. "I'm afraid of my answers."

13

Charles had just entered school.

"What is your name?" asked the teacher.

"Charles," was the answer.

"Charles what?" asked the teacher who wanted to know his surname.

"Oh, that's all right," answered the boy, "just call me Charles."

Charles what? — Чарлз... а дальше как?

14

Tommy had just returned from his first day at school. He proudly announced that the teacher had spoken to him.

"Well," said his father, "what did he say to you?"

"He told me to keep quiet," Tommy answered.

15

The teacher was giving her class a test in natural history.

"Now, Bobby," she said, "tell me where the elephant is found."

Bobby thought a little and then answered:

"The elephant is such a large animal that it is hardly ever lost."

16

Neighbour: And how did Jimmy do at his history examination?

Mother: Not well at all, I'm sorry to say. But it wasn't his fault.

Why, they asked him about things that happened before the boy was born.

fault [fɔ:lt] — вина

17

Tommy: I'm not going to school any more, Mum.

Mother: Why not?



Tommy: On Monday the teacher said four and four are eight. On Tuesday she said six and two are eight, on Wednesday she said seven and one are eight and today she said that five and three are eight. I'm not going back to school again until the teacher makes up her mind.

makes up her mind — зѡ. остановится на чем-нибудь одном

## 18

Emily had been to school for the first time.

"Well, darling, what did you learn?" asked her mother.

"Nothing," sighed Emily hopelessly. "I've got to go back again tomorrow."

to sigh — вздыхать

hopelessly — безнадежно

## 19

Teacher: Polly, name five things that contain milk.

Polly: Butter, cheese, ice-cream and two cows

to contain [kən'tein] — содержать

## 20

Teacher: What do we call the last teeth we get?

Pupil: False teeth, Miss.

false [fə:ls] teeth — вставные зубы

## 21

The teacher told her pupils about the bear hibernating in winter. After explaining it to the children, she said:

"Can anyone tell me of any other animal that hibernates?"

A little boy's hand went up, and the teacher said:

"Well, Tommy, you may tell us of one."

"Father Frost," said Tommy, "only he does it in the summer time."

to hibernate [ˈhaɪbəneɪt] — находиться в зимней спячке

## 22

The teacher of geography was trying to teach a small boy the points of the compass. He explained:

"On your right is the East, on your left is the West, and in front of you is the North. Now what is behind you?"



The boy thought for a moment, then cried:  
"I knew it. I told mother you would see the patch on my trousers."

the points of the compass — стороны света  
patch — заплата

23

"Daddy, can you write your name with your eyes closed?"  
"Of course I can, my son."  
"Well then, will you sign my school report?"

to sign [sain] — подписывать  
school report — дневник



24

Mother: What are you doing, Dick?  
Dick: I'm reading a very interesting book.  
Mother: Well, but what about your lessons? It's already late.  
Dick: But don't you know, Ma, that it's never too late to learn?

26



"Do you know the ABC?" the teacher asked one of the school-girls.

"Of course I do," answered the girl.

"Then tell me, please, which letter goes after 'A'?"

"All the others," was the answer.

Nick showed his daybook to his grandfather.

"When I was at school, I always had a 'five' in history and you have a 'four,'" said the grandfather.

"You see, Grandfather, when you were at school, history was shorter," was the answer.

One day Pete came home from school and said:

"I was the only pupil who could answer the teacher's question."

"Very nice, Pete. And what was the question?" asked his mother.

"The teacher asked: 'Who broke the window in our classroom?'" Pete answered.

Teacher of history: When was Rome built?

Alec: At night.

Teacher (*in surprise*): Why, who told you that?

Alec: You did. You said not long ago: "Rome wasn't built in a day."

Rome — PHM

One day a teacher asked one of his pupils:

"Which is more important, the sun or the moon?"

"The moon is more important than the sun because it shines at night when it is dark while the sun shines in the day-time when nobody wants it," was the answer.

Teacher: Now, Andy, tell me which month has twenty-eight days.

Andy (*after thinking for a while*): They all have, sir.



## 31

Teacher (*looking over Teddy's homework*): I don't see how it's possible for a single person to make so many mistakes.  
 Teddy (*proudly*): It isn't a single person, sir. Father helped me.

I don't see — эд. не понимаю  
 a single person = one person

## 32

Teacher: Robert, what is a synonym?  
 Robert: It's a word we use in place of another when we cannot spell the other one.

## 33

Willie: Papa, why do they call our language mother-tongue?  
 Father: Well, just see who uses it most.

mother-tongue [tʌŋ] — родной язык

## 34

Teacher: Can you tell me anything about the great chemists of the 17th century?  
 Pupil (*after thinking for some time*): They are all dead, sir.

## 35

Willie: Teacher says we're here to help the others.  
 Father: Of course we are.  
 Willie: What are the others here for?

## 36

Teacher: Are you sure that the story you told me is original?  
 Pupil: Certainly it is.  
 Teacher: Great heavens! To think that I would live to see the day when I would meet Rudyard Kipling!

original [ə'ɹɪdʒənəl] — эд. ваш собственный

Great heavens! — Боже мой!

I would live to see the day — я доживу до того дня

## 37

Freddy: Pa, I must tell you something now. I'm sure you'll be happy to learn it.



Father: Well, out with it, Freddy.  
Freddy: You won't have to get me any new books next year.  
Father: Why so?  
Freddy: I'll stay another year in the fifth form.

out with it — выкладывай

38

Teacher: Your English exercises are always better than your French ones. Can you explain why it is so?  
Pupil: Yes, I can. It's because my Mummy doesn't know French.

39

Pete: Don't be angry with me, Daddy. I'm very sorry that I've got a two in arithmetic.  
Father: How could it happen? Did you understand the teacher's question?  
Pete: Of course I did. It is he who didn't understand my answer.

40

Teacher: So you can't do a simple sum in arithmetic. Now let me explain it to you. Eight of you have together forty-eight apples, and seventy-nine pears. Now what would each of you get?  
Pupil: Cholera.

cholera ['kɒləɹə] — холера

41

Father: Well, Bobby, I've talked to your teacher today. He doesn't like your work at home and in class. Now I want to ask you a question. Who is the laziest person in your class?  
Bobby: I don't know, Father.  
Father (*angrily*): Oh, yes, you do. Think! When all the boys and girls are reading or writing, who sits in the class and only watches how other people work?  
Bobby (*happily*): It's our teacher, Father.

42

The teacher wrote on the blackboard:  $5 + 7 =$   
"Now find the sum," said the teacher to a pupil.  
"Why me? I didn't lose it," answered the boy.

43

"Our teacher of literature talks to herself. Does yours?" asked Andy.



"Yes, he does," answered his friend, "but he doesn't realize it. He thinks we're listening to him."



Two brothers were invited by their aunt to spend their holiday in the country. The aunt told them that she would be glad to have only one of them as her house was too small for both. Soon one of



the brothers arrived and was asked by the aunt how he and his brother had decided who was to come.

"We tossed for it," the boy answered.

"Oh, indeed," said the aunt, "and you, of course, were the winner?"

"Oh, no," answered the boy. "I lost."

to toss for smth — бросить жребий

45

"Tom, did you tell the teacher that I helped you to do your homework?"

"Certainly, Jane."

"And what did he say?"

"He told me he couldn't give me a 'two' for my friend's mistakes."

46

Teacher: Which is nearer to us, America or the moon?

Pete: Of course the moon, sir.

Teacher (*in surprise*): Why do you think so?

Pete: I think so because we can see the moon but we can't see America.

47

The teacher said:

"I think you know, children, that the earth goes round the sun."

Then Nick got up and asked:

"And what does the earth do at night when there's no sun?"

48

During a break Mary came up to her teacher and asked him: "May I go home earlier today as my sister wants me to go shopping?"

"Of course not," answered the teacher.

"Thank you very much, sir," said Mary.

49

Teacher: Why are you late, Bob?

Bob: It was late, sir, when I started from home.

Teacher: Then why didn't you start early?

Bob: I didn't do it because it was too late to start early.

50

Teacher: You are late for the lessons again, Ted. Why are you late today?



Ted: I'm sorry. I overslept.  
Teacher: Oh! Do you sleep at home as well?

51

In a London school a teacher gave the following composition to his pupils: "Imagine yourselves to be the managers of big factories and write about your working day."

Everybody started writing except one boy. The teacher came up to him and asked:

"Why are you doing nothing?"

"I'm waiting for my secretary," answered the boy.

manager ['mænɪdʒə] — управляющий

52

At a lesson of history a teacher asked one of his pupils:

"In which of his battles did General Wolf cry, 'We won and I die happy'?"

"It was in his last battle, sir," answered the pupil.

battle ['bætl] — битва

53

"What is an abstract noun, Margaret?"

"I'm afraid I don't know."

"Well, you should know. I've told you again and again. It's something one can think of but can't touch. Now, give me an example, please."

"Boiling water."

to boil — кипеть

54

Teacher: How many fingers do you have?

Bobbie: Ten, sir.

Teacher: Well, if four fingers were missing, what would you have then?

Bobbie (*happily*): No music lessons.

to miss — не хватать, недоставать

55

Teacher (*to a new boy*): What's your name, my little fellow?

New boy: Erbert Arris.

Teacher: Always say "sir", please, when you are speaking to teachers. It's more polite.



New boy (*apologetically*): Sir Erbert Arris.

polite [pə'laɪt] — вежливый

apologetically [ə,pələ'dʒetɪkəlɪ] — извиняющимся тоном

56

Teacher: How old is the person who was born in 1951?

Pupil: Please, sir, is it a man or a woman?

57

"I wish," said an anxious mother to her lazy son, "I wish you would pay a little attention to your arithmetic."

"Well I do," was the reply, "I pay as little attention as possible."

anxious [ˈæŋksɪəs] — обеспокоенный

58

Teacher: What do we get from sheep?

Boy: Wool.

Teacher: And what do we get from wool?

Boy: I don't know.

Teacher: Then I'll help you. Well, what is your coat made of?

Boy: My coat was made from my father's coat.

59

Mother: I really don't know what to do with you. You can't count at all. Listen to me and try to divide correctly. If I take a potato and divide it into two parts, then into four parts, and each of the four parts into two parts, what will I have?

Little Amy: Potato salad.

60

Teacher (to Jim): Spell the word "cigarette".

Jim: Well, my Pa doesn't let me smoke, and I don't think he'd like me to spell it.

61

A teacher asked one pupil whether he would prefer one-sixth or one-seventh of a lemon.

"I would prefer one-seventh, sir," answered the boy.

"One-seventh?" inquired the teacher and began to explain that though the fraction sounded larger, it was really the smaller of the two.



"I know that, sir," answered the pupil. "That's why I chose it. I don't like lemons!"

*fraction — дробь*

62

Mother (*coming up to her little boy who is crying bitterly*):

Why are you crying, Tom?

Tom: The tea... the teacher kept me after lessons for something I didn't do.

Mother (*in great surprise*): Something you didn't do? But what was it?

Tom: My... my lessons.

63

Little Jack spent his first day at school and returned disappointed.

"What did you learn?" was his aunt's question.

"We didn't learn anything," replied the boy.

"Well, what did you do in that case?"

"We didn't do anything. There was a woman who didn't know how to spell some very simple words and I told her."

*disappointed [ˌdɪsəˈpɔɪntɪd] — разочарованный*

64

Father: You know that Mother is very angry when you get bad marks at school.

Son: It's not me to blame, for it's the teacher who gives me bad marks.

*It's not me to blame — Я не виноват*

65

Teacher: Oxygen is necessary for life. Nothing could live without oxygen. It was discovered a century ago.

Pupil: But what did they do before it was discovered?

*oxygen ['ɒksɪdʒən] — кислород*

66

During vacation time a schoolboy made up his mind to write a letter to his friend. He sat down at his writing-table and wrote: "Dear Bill!" He thought a bit and continued: "I'm writing to you because I have nothing to do." After that he thought a great deal and added at last: "I'm afraid I must stop writing to you because I have nothing to say. Yours truly, Tom Brown."



Teacher: Where did Admiral Nelson win his last victory?  
Pupil: On page 127.

Uncle: Well, Jimmy, have you gained any prizes at school?  
Jimmy: No, sir, the other fellows have got them all.  
Uncle: But you'll keep on trying, my boy, won't you?  
Jimmy: What's the use of trying when the other fellows keep on doing the same?

to gain a prize — получить приз  
to keep on doing smth — продолжать делать что-л.

A schoolmaster keeps his young pupils waiting for him in the library. When at last he comes in, he finds one of the boys busy reading. The book which he is reading happens to be a dictionary.

"How do you like your book, my boy?" the teacher asks him smiling.

"I find the stories very fine indeed," says the boy ready to please his master, "in spite of their being very short."

in spite of their being — несмотря на то, что они

Father (*addressing his son*): Did you take that letter to Mr. Smith?  
Son: Yes, Pa, but I don't know what good it is to write to poor Mr. Smith. He's blind.

Father (*in surprise*): Blind! I never knew that. It must be some sudden affliction that has recently overtaken him. How did you find it out?

Son: Well, he asked me twice where my hat was when I was in his office and it was on my head all the time.

blind — слепой  
affliction [ə'flikʃən] — несчастье

Pupil: Dear sir! Thank you very much, I owe you everything I know.

Teacher: Oh, not at all. Don't mention such a trifle.

to owe [ou] — зд. быть обязанным (кому-либо чем-либо)  
to mention — упоминать  
trifle — мелочь, пустяк



The teacher stood with his back to the fireplace on a winter morning. He decided to give good advice to the pupils before starting the lesson: "Before you speak, think. Count fifty before you say anything important."

The lips of the pupils began to move in unison, and suddenly they burst out in chorus: "Ninety-nine, one hundred. Your coat tails are on fire, sir."

fireplace [ˈfaɪəˈpleɪs] — камин  
advice [ədˈvaɪs] — совет  
in unison [ˈjuːnɪzn] — в унисон  
coat tails — фалды фрака

Schoolboy: Ma, where's that shirt of mine which I left on the chair last night?

Mother: I've just washed it.

Schoolboy: Oh, Ma, how could you! The whole history of England was on those cuffs.

cuff — манжета





"Well, John," said his father, "is the teacher quite satisfied with you?"

"Oh, yes, Father. Quite."

"Why? Did he tell you so?"

"Yes. The other day he said to me, 'If all my pupils were like you, I should shut my school today.' That shows I know enough."

the other day — на днях

Jackie's father did not allow him to stay in the playground after school hours. He said Jackie must come straight home. But one day Jackie forgot about it and came home late very dirty and very tired.

"Look here," said his father angrily, "didn't you promise me that you wouldn't stay out and play games?"

"Yes, Father," was the answer.

"And didn't I promise to punish you if you stayed out?"

"Yes, Father," said Jackie, "but as I didn't keep my promise, why should you keep yours?"

to allow [ə'laʊ] — разрешать

to keep one's promise ['prɒmɪs] — сдерживать обещание



## GROWN-UPS



1

In the evening a poor man knocked at the door of a rich man and asked him: "Are you asleep?"

"No, I am not," was the answer.

"Can you give me some money?"

"Oh, no. I am asleep already."

2

"The harder it rains, the better I like it."

"You must be an optimist."

"No, I am an umbrella seller."

umbrella [ʌmˈbrelə] seller — продавец зонтиков.

3

The postal clerk weighed Johnson's letter and said:

"It's too heavy. You'll have to put another stamp on it."

"What," said Johnson, "and make it even heavier?"

postal clerk [ˈpəʊstəl ˈklɜːk] — почтовый служащий  
to weigh [wei] — взвешивать

4

"Did you give your wife that little lecture on economy you talked about?"

"Yes."



"Any results?"

"Yes. I've got to give up smoking."

to give up smoking — бросить курить

5

A tramp asked a farmer for work.

"You can gather eggs for me," said the farmer, "if you don't steal any."

"Sir," answered the tramp with tears in his eyes, "you could trust me with anything on earth. For twenty years I was manager of a bath-house and I never took a bath."

tramp — бродяга

to steal — красть

to trust — доверять

bath-house — баня

6

"Bill's wife always laughs at his jokes."

"They must be pretty clever."

"No, she is."

pretty clever — очень умный

7

A servant ran quite frightened into the study of a learned professor to tell him his house was on fire.

"Say it to my wife," the professor said. "You know I don't trouble myself with household affairs."

to be on fire — гореть

household affairs [ə'feəz] — домашние дела

8

A poor man knocked at the door of a house, asking for some bread or some money. "Madam, can you give me anything?"

"My good man," said the lady, "I have no money at all, but if there is anything to sew or mend, I can do it for you."

"Madam, if you can't give me anything, and if you're kind enough to do something for me, here's a button. Please sew a pair of trousers on it."

to sew [sou] — шить, пришивать

to mend — штопать, чинить



"Does she talk much?"

"Does she! Last summer she talked so much that her tongue got sunburned."

tongue [tʌŋ] — язык

to get sunburned [ˈsʌnbænd] — загореть

## 10

"Did you hear about a man who had many books but no book-case?"

"Why not?"

"He couldn't get anybody to lend him any."

to lend — давать взаймы

## 11

"Young man, have you got sufficient confidence in me to lend me a dollar?"

"Oh, yes, I have all the confidence, but I haven't got the dollar."

sufficient [səˈfɪʃənt] — достаточный

confidence [ˈkɒnfɪdəns] — доверие

## 12

"I've never told anybody the truth," said a man to his friend.

"Then," said the latter, "you've now done it for the first time in your life."

## 13

A dying man was asked to forgive his neighbour.

The man said: "Let it be, if I die, I'll forgive him, but if I don't, I'll show him what's what."

to forgive [fəˈɡɪv] — простить

what's what — что к чему

## 14

"What's this piece of cord tied around your finger for?"

"My wife put it there to remind me to post a letter."

"And did you post it?"

"No, she forgot to give it to me."

cord — шнурок

to remind [rɪˈmaɪnd] — напоминать



Two men, who had come to the country for their holidays, were walking in the orchard. They saw that all the trees had a lot of apples, except one tree on which there were no apples at all. A young





country man was sitting nearby. They called to him to come up, gave him a sixpence and asked:

"Do you know why there are no apples on that tree?"

"Of course I do," answered the young man laughing. "There are no apples on that tree because it's an oak tree."

orchard [ˈɔ:tʃəd] — фруктовый сад

oak tree [ˈoʊktri:] — дуб

## 16

A poor man came to a very rich woman and began to tell her about his hard life and his hungry children. He thought she would give him some money. When his story was over, the rich woman began to cry. Then she said to her servant: "Pete, tell this man to go home. Don't you see that I'm too ill to listen to stories like that?"

servant [ˈsɜ:vənt] — слуга

## 17

"Landlord, this towel is too dirty. I can't wipe on it."

"Well, I'm surprised. Sixty people have wiped on this towel and you're the first to complain."

landlord — владелец дома, сдающий квартиры

towel [ˈtaʊəl] — полотенце

to complain [kəmˈpleɪn] — жаловаться

## 18

"No, thank you. I'll stay at home," said a man who had been invited to join a party visiting the zoo. "My eldest daughter walks like a kangaroo, my second daughter talks like a parrot, my son laughs like a hyena, my wife watches me like a hawk, my cook's as cross as a bear and my mother-in-law says that I'm an old monkey! When I go anywhere, I want a change."

parrot [ˈpærət] — попугай

hyena [haɪˈi:nə] — гиена

hawk [hɔ:k] — ястреб

cross — сердитый, раздраженный

mother-in-law — теща

change [tʃeɪndʒ] — зд. разнообразие

## 19

"Hullo, Brown. Are you using your lawn-mower this afternoon?"

"Yes, I am afraid I am."

"Splendid! Then you won't be wanting your tennis racket - I've broken mine."



lawn-mower [ˈlawnˈmouə] — газонокосилка  
Splendid! — Замечательно!

20

Downstairs: Didn't you hear me pounding on the ceiling?  
Upstairs: Oh, that's all right. We were making a lot of noise  
ourselves.

downstairs — эд. сосед снизу  
to pound — стучать  
upstairs — эд. сосед сверху

21

"I gave that man fifty cents for saving my life."  
"What did he do?"  
"Gave me back twenty cents' change."

change — сдача

22

Grandfather: Excuse my interfering, dear daughter, but your  
son is a foolish and bad young man.

Mother: Don't say so, dear father. Boys will be boys. But certainly  
something must be done. I insist on his going abroad to see the  
world.

Grandfather: Well, I think there's nothing wrong with him  
seeing the world, but I shudder at the prospect of the world  
seeing him.

to interfere — вмешиваться

I shudder at the prospect of the world seeing him — я содрогаюсь при мысли, что  
мир увидит его

23

"When I see you, I always think of Smith."

"But I am not in the least like Smith."

"Oh, yes. You both owe me \$ 100."

I am not in the least like — я вовсе не похож на  
to owe [ou] — быть должным (кому-либо)

24

"Johnson is so conceited."

"Yes, on his last birthday he sent a telegram of congratulation  
to his mother!"

conceited [kənˈsi:ɪd] — тщеславный, самодовольный



"Can you name an animal that has eyes and cannot see, legs and cannot walk, but can jump as high as the Empire State Building?" asked one of the party.

Everybody thought for a long time but couldn't guess. Finally, they gave it up and demanded the solution.

"The answer," he said, "is a wooden horse. It has eyes but cannot see, and legs but cannot walk."

"Yes," the company agreed. "But how does it jump as high as the Empire State Building?"

"The Empire State Building," the humorist explained, "can't jump."

Empire State Building — Эмпайр Стейт Билдинг, небоскреб в Нью-Йорке  
to demand [di'mænd] — требовать  
solution [sə'lju:ʃən] — решение, ответ

## 26

"Since he lost his money, half his friends don't know him any more."

"And the other half?"

"They don't know yet that he has lost it."

## 27

"You say he left no money?"

"No, you see he lost his health getting wealthy, and then lost his wealth trying to get healthy."

wealthy ['welθi] — богатый  
wealth — богатство

## 28

"Why didn't you deliver that message as instructed?" a man asked his servant.

"I did the best I could, sir."

"The best you could! Why, if I had known I was going to send a donkey, I would have gone myself."

to deliver a message ['mesɪdʒ] — зд. выполнить поручение  
donkey ['dɒŋki] — осел

## 29

Antiquarian: This vase is 2000 years old. Be careful in carrying it.



Moving man: You can depend on me, sir; I'll be as careful of it as if it were new!

antiquarian. [æntɪ'kwɛəriən] — антиквар

moving man — грузчик

You can depend on me — Можете на меня положиться

30

"Your flat is very cute. Don't you adore it?"

"No, I'm moving."

"Why, what's come over you?"

"An opera singer."

cute — амер. милый, прелестный

to move — переезжать, переселяться

31

"Brown agreed to lend me money."

"Did you take it?"

"No. That sort of friendship is too good to lose."

32

A speaker talking for more than two hours said to his audience:

"I'm sorry I spoke so long. You see, I haven't got a watch with me."

"No," shouted one of the audience, "but there's a calendar behind you."

33

John: Hello, Bill.

Bill: Hello, John.

John: Is your sister expecting me?

Bill: Oh, yes, she is.

John: How do you know it?

Bill: She has just gone out in a hurry.

34

A merchant was selling an elephant. A man came up to the elephant and began to examine it very carefully. The merchant went up to him and whispered in his ear:

"Don't say anything about the elephant till I've sold it and I'll make you a present."

"All right," said the man.

After the elephant had been sold, the merchant gave him one tenth of the price he had got for it and said:



"Now will you tell me how you found out that blemish on the left foreleg of the elephant? I thought it was well hidden."

"I never found any blemish," said the man.

"Then why did you look so carefully at every part of the elephant?"

"Because I've never seen one before, and wanted to know what they were like."

merchant ['mæ:tʃənt] — купец

blemish ['blemɪʃ] — изъян

foreleg ['fɔ:leg] — передняя нога

### 35

Two students had spent all their money and could not pay for their dinner. So they thought hard and at last one of them said:

"I've found a way to satisfy the landlord."

When the landlord came in, the student said: "We are scholars, and by our studies we've discovered that every hundred years things return to the same state, therefore in a hundred years you will be a landlord here again, and we'll come and pay you."

"I'm a scholar myself," said the landlord, "and I've found that a hundred years ago you came to me, dined and went out without paying. So I will not let you go until you pay me the bill of the last century."

The students, finding that they were beaten with their own weapon, had to send a boy to the college to borrow the money and pay the bill.

to satisfy ['sætɪsfaɪ] — удовлетворить

scholar ['skɒlə] — ученый

weapon ['wepən] — оружие

### 36

The wife was reading the news to her husband.

"It says here," she said, "that a man left \$ 2,000 to the woman who refused to marry him."

"That's what I call gratitude," commented her husband.

to refuse [rɪ'fju:z] — отказать

gratitude ['grætitju:d] — благодарность

### 37

"Have you been married, Mr. Brown?"

"Yes, I have."

"Whom did you marry?"

"A... a woman."

"But of course! Do you know anybody who married a man?"

"Yes, my sister did," was the answer.



Mr. Smith went out for a walk. He walked in the park for some time and then he was tired, and wanted to rest a little. He saw a bench. An old man was going to it. As Mr. Smith wanted to be the first he ran towards that bench. The old man ran after him shouting something. But Mr. Smith was the first. He sat down on the bench and was very happy. The old man came up to him. He was so tired that he couldn't speak. He showed Mr. Smith a notice which he had in his hands. Mr. Smith looked at it and read: "Wet paint!"

notice ['nəʊtɪs] — объявление

Wet paint! — Осторожно, окрашено!

## 39

A man was listening to an interesting lecture. Suddenly an old man sitting near him asked:

"What language is the lecturer speaking?"

"He is speaking French," the man said. "Don't you know this language?"

"No, I don't," answered the old man.

"Then why are you sitting here if you don't understand anything?"

"You see," said the old man, "if I leave, the lecturer will think that his lecture is not interesting and he will be upset. I'd better wait till the lecture is over."

## 40

Two men had talked for a time in the park.

"Are you going to Milberry's lecture today?" asked one of them.

"Yes," answered the other.

"Don't go, for I heard that he is a very bad speaker."

"I must go," said the other. "I'm Milberry."

## 41

A man asked another to loan him five dollars.

"Why," said the other, "I don't know you."

"That's why I came to you," the man said, "for those who know me won't loan me even five cents."

to loan [ləʊn] — одолжить

## 42

An American on a visit to London took his children to the zoo. The children were thrilled. So approaching one of the keepers the American said:



"Say, man, take me along to your boss. I'd like to talk business with him."

The man asked suspiciously: "What business do you want to discuss?"

"Well," explained the American, "I've taken a fancy to this zoo. I'd like to buy it for my kids."

"It will be better if we buy your kids for our zoo," answered the keeper.

were thrilled — были в восторге

I've taken a fancy ['fænsɪ] to — мне приглянулся

kid — амер. ребенок



A young journalist was sent to get an interview with a rich old man. His newspaper wanted a story on how he had made himself so rich.



"Well," said the old man, "it's a very long story and while I'm telling it, we'll save the candle." And he blew it out at once.

"Never mind about the story," said the journalist. "I understand."

to save — *зд. сэкономить*

candle — *свеча*

to blow out — *задуть*

Never mind about the story — *Можете не рассказывать*

#### 44

An absent-minded writer was very busy at his desk one evening. Suddenly his little boy came into the room.

"What do you want?" asked the father. "I'm very busy now."

"Oh, Daddy," said the boy. "I only want to say 'good-night'."

"I have no time," answered the writer. "Tell me tomorrow morning and if I've time, I'll listen to you."

absent-minded [*ˈæbsəntˈmaɪndɪd*] — *рассеянный*

#### 45

When a man came home one evening, he found the house locked up. He tried to get in at various windows on the first floor but couldn't. Finally he climbed upon the shed-roof and with much difficulty entered through a second-storey window. On the dining-room table he found a note from his wife: "I have gone out. You'll find the key under the door mat."

to lock up — *запереть*

shed-roof — *крыша сарая*

key [*kɪ*] — *ключ*

door mat — *половик*

#### 46

An absent-minded man often lost his umbrellas. He lost them in trams, trains and shops. His wife was very angry with him and often said: "We can't buy umbrellas every day."

One day this man saw an umbrella in the tram.

"Today I'll not lose it," he thought and brought it home.

When his wife saw the umbrella she began to laugh and said:

"But you haven't taken any umbrella with you today!"

#### 47

A big fat man called at the house of the woman well known for her charity.

"Madam," he began in a sad voice. "I wish to draw your attention to a poor family in our street. The father is dead, the



mother is too ill to work, and the nine children are always hungry. They will be turned into the street if you don't help them. Their rent is about twelve pounds."

"How terrible!" exclaimed the woman. "May I ask who you are?"

The fat man put his handkerchief to his eyes and said: "I'm the landlord."

charity — благотворительность

to draw smb's attention — привлечь чье-либо внимание

to turn smb into the street — выгнать кого-л. на улицу

rent — плата за квартиру

48

The landlady was showing the room.

"What are all those spots on the wallpaper?" asked the prospective roomer.

"Oh, nothing. The man who lived here last was an inventor. He invented some kind of explosive."

"Are those spots the explosive?"

"No,— the inventor."

wallpaper — обои

prospective roomer — будущий жилец

inventor [in'ventə] — изобретатель

explosive [iks'pləʊsɪv] — взрывчатое вещество

49

The woman on the phone was terribly excited.

"I'd like to insure my house," she said to the insurance man.

"Can I do it over the phone?"

"I'm afraid not, madam, but I think we can send someone over to see you."

"But I can't wait," she cried nervously. "The house is on fire."

to insure [in'sʊə] — застраховать

the house is on fire — дом горит

50

Dick: I don't like that chap, Ben.

Ben: Why? What's he been doing now?

Dick: We lunched together at the club, and he said he'd pay. I said, "No, let me." And he said, "Very well, if you like."

if you like — если хочешь



Ann: I've just heard some dreadful stories about your husband.  
 Violet (*happily*): Do, please, tell me the worst, darling. It may mean an extra dress or two when he hears I know.

dreadful ['dredful] — страшный, ужасный  
 extra — еще один

The daughter of the family had received a proposal of marriage and it was being discussed at the breakfast table the following morning.

"I say, Father," said the young son of the house, "I don't believe Gwen's boy's going to make her a good husband."

Gwen (*indignantly*): How dare you say such a thing?

Her brother: Because it's the truth! This chap's been on the doorstep for nearly three months — and I've only got half-a-crown out of it.

to make her a good husband — будет ей хорошим мужем  
 to dare [deə] — сметь  
 to be on the doorstep — эд. приходить  
 half-a-crown [kraun] — полкроны (монета)

Frances: Last night at dinner I had a millionaire on one side and a novelist on the other.

Louise: What did you talk about?

Frances: I discussed money with the novelist and novels with the millionaire.

Jones: Poor old Jack! Dead, eh?

Brown: Yes, dead. And I've married his widow.

Jones: Really? I'm so sorry that Jack is dead.

Brown (*angrily*): Don't bother about him! Your pity ought to be for me!

widow — вдова  
 to bother ['bɒðə] — беспокоиться  
 Your pity ought to be for me! — Это меня нужно пожалеть!

A woman called up the editor of a newspaper.  
 "You know," she said, "we've subscribed to your newspaper for



forty years and I thought you might want to print a story about my husband. He's a wonderful man, doesn't smoke or drink. He has always been a model citizen in every way. He's never used strong language and he's never once stepped inside a theatre or a movie house. In fact, he has no vices or bad habits. And tomorrow he's going to celebrate his 80th birthday."

"How?" asked the editor.

to subscribe to [səb'skraɪb] — подписываться на (газету или журнал)

to print — напечатать

to use strong language — ругаться

movie house — кинотеатр

vice — порок

56

Gentleman: May I see your master, Pete?

Servant: I'm sorry you can't, sir. He has gone out.

Gentleman: Gone out? But I want my umbrella. I lent him mine yesterday. And now I can't have it!

Servant: I'm afraid you can't, for master has taken it with him.

Gentleman: What a nuisance! Don't you see it's raining cats and dogs and here I am without an umbrella. What shall I do. I'd like to know?

Servant: Just do what my master has done. Go and borrow one.

What a nuisance ['njuːns]! — Какая досада!

57

A sentimental lady on an excursion in a forest stopped before a big tree.

"O wonderful elm," she said, "if you could only speak, what would you say to me?"

The man accompanying her said: "It would probably say, 'Excuse me, but I'm an oak.'"

elm — вяз (дерево)

to accompany [ə'kʌmpəni] — сопровождать

58

A man was charged with stealing a horse, and after a long trial the jury acquitted him. Later in the day the man came back to see the judge.

"Judge," he said, "I want you to arrest my lawyer. He is a bad man."

"What's the matter?" asked the judge in surprise. "He won your case, didn't he? What do you want to have your lawyer arrested for?"



"Well, it's this way, sir," answered the man. "You see, I didn't have the money to pay him, so he went and took the horse I stole."

to charge with — обвинять в  
trial ['traɪəl] — суд  
jury ['dʒʊəri] — суд присяжных  
to acquit [ə'kwɪt] — оправдать  
lawyer ['lɔːjə] — адвокат  
case [keɪs] — судебный процесс

59

At dinner time in the dining-room of a hotel a man was boasting before everybody of the wonderful things he had done in his time.

"Well, now," said a man who was listening to him, "you tell us of something you can't do, and I'll try to do it myself."

"Thank you," answered the man. "I can't pay my bill."

to pay one's bill — заплатить по счету

60

Uncle: When do you intend to pay me back the money you have borrowed, sir?

Nephew: Very soon, dear uncle! I'll do it as soon as I get the money from the publishing house.

Uncle: When will you get it, I would like to know?

Nephew: I'll certainly get it when the publisher accepts my novel.

Uncle: Do you think he will accept your novel, young man?

Nephew: No doubt he will when I finish it.

Uncle: Are you going to finish it soon, my boy?

Nephew: Of course I am. I'll begin to write it the moment I've found a suitable subject and the necessary inspiration.

publishing house ['pʌblɪʃɪŋ 'haʊs] — издательство

to accept [ək'sept] — принять

suitable ['sjʊ:təbl] subject — подходящая тема

inspiration [ˌɪnspɪ'reɪʃən] — вдохновение

61

The young father was wheeling a baby carriage around the block on a very hot afternoon.

"My dear!" came a voice from an upper window of his house.

"Now let me alone!" he called back. "We're all right."

An hour later the same voice said: "Charles, dear."

"Well, what do you want?" he replied. "Anything wrong in the house?"



"No, Charles, dear, but you've been wheeling Nancy's doll all the afternoon. Isn't it time for the baby to have a turn?"

was wheeling a baby carriage ['kæridʒ] around the block — катал детскую коляску вокруг квартала

Isn't it time for the baby to have a turn? — Не пора ли тебе покатать ребенка?





A young man was a stranger in the town, and had been brought to a dance at the local Deaf and Dumb Hospital by his old friend, the doctor.

"How can I ask a deaf and dumb girl to dance?" he asked a little anxiously.

"Just smile and bow to her," answered the doctor, who had done it many times.

So the young man picked out a beautiful girl, bowed and smiled, and away they danced.

They danced not only one dance that evening, but even three, and he was going to ask her for another when a stranger came up to the girl and said:

"When are we going to have another dance? It's almost an hour since I had one with you."

"I know, dear," answered the girl, "but I don't know how to get away from this deaf and dumb young man."

local ['loukəl] — местный

deaf and dumb ['def ən 'dʌm] — глухонемой

anxiously ['æŋkʃəsli] — озабоченно

## 63

The duelists discharged their pistols without hurting each other. One of the seconds invited them to shake hands, but the other second considered it unnecessary.

"Why should they do it? There is no need whatever for such performance," he said, "because their hands must have been shaking since morning."

The duelists discharged their pistols — Дуэлянты разрядили пистолеты

second ['sekənd] — секундант

to shake hands — пожать друг другу руки

to shake — дрожать, трястись

## 64

Friend: Have you broken off your engagement to Mary?

Unlucky suitor: Unfortunately.

Friend: But why?

Unlucky suitor: She wouldn't have me.

Friend: Have you told her about your rich uncle?

Unlucky suitor (*with a sigh*): Yes, I have. She is my aunt now.

to break off an engagement — расторгнуть помолвку

unlucky suitor ['sju:tə] — незадачливый поклонник

Unfortunately. — эд. К сожалению.

She wouldn't have me. — Она мне отказала.



M a r y: I'm awfully angry with you. How could you give away the secret I told you?

J a n e: I'm very sorry, darling. But, please, don't be angry with me. I didn't give your secret away. I simply exchanged it for another.

to give away — 1. выдавать (тайну, секрет):

2. отдавать даром

to exchange [iks'tʃeɪndʒ] smth for smth — обменять что-л. на что-л.

B e n: Why are you looking so sad, old boy? What's the matter with you?

J o h n: How can I help being sad? I am head over ears in debt.

B e n: Don't worry! Up, man, and try. Can't you think of a way out?

J o h n: I can't, indeed. I'm completely at a loss. I've given up looking for a way out.

B e n: In that case, young fellow, it is not you but your creditors who should be sad.

to be head over ears in debt [det] — быть по уши в долгах

I've given up looking for a way out. — Я отказался от попыток найти выход.

A man was very fond of his sons, but showed his love by letting the boys go their own way and giving them whatever they wanted, so that they were quite spoiled. There was an earthquake in their town, and in alarm the loving father sent off his dear boys to a friend in New York. This friend was willing to do much for the alarmed father, and he suffered from the noisy guests for several days, but at last he could not stand their company any longer and soon sent his friend the following telegram: "For goodness' sake, send us the earthquake and take back the boys."

by letting the boys go their own way — тем, что позволял мальчикам делать, что хотят

spoiled — эд. избалованный

earthquake ['æθkweɪk] — землетрясение

in alarm — в тревоге

he could not stand — он не мог выдержать

for goodness' sake — ради бога



Mr. Green had recently bought a dog and was proudly demonstrating his good points to a friend.

"It's a very good dog," he said. "No tramp or beggar can come near the house without his letting us know about it."

"What does he do?" asked his friend. "Does he bark the house down?"

"Not at all," answered Mr. Green. "He crawls under the arm-

to bark the house down — лаять на весь дом  
good point — достоинство, преимущество



"Why does our manager seem so partial to young Saunders?"

"Because he's the only fellow on the staff who isn't taking correspondence lessons to become manager himself."

manager — управляющий

to be partial ['pa:ʃəl] to — быть неравнодушным к

staff — штат

correspondence lessons — уроки заочного обучения



An Englishman was boasting about the merits of his watch to friends in New York City. At last one of the Americans decided he could stand it no longer.

"That's nothing," he interrupted. "I dropped my watch into the Hudson a year ago, and it's been running ever since."

The Englishman looked taken aback. "What," he exclaimed, "the same watch?"

"No," the American replied, "the Hudson."

merits — достоинства, качества

the Hudson ['hʌdsn] — р. Гудзон

to run — 1. ходить (о часах);

2. течь (о реке)

taken aback [ə'bak] — ошеломленный

## 71

"Mr. Jones," began the timid-looking young man, "er — ah — that is, can — er — I — will you —"

"Why, yes, my boy, you may have her," smiled the girl's father. The young man gasped.

"What's that? Have whom?" he asked.

"My daughter, of course," replied Jones. "You want to marry her, don't you?"

"Why, no," said the young man. "I just wanted to know if you could lend me 25 dollars."

"Certainly not!" said Jones sharply. "Why, I hardly know you."

timid-looking — с робким видом

to gasp [gɑ:sp] — раскрыть рот от изумления

I hardly know you — я вас почти не знаю

## 72

One bright summer morning a young man was whitewashing his garden gate. Though the man didn't seem to enjoy his job, he did his best to finish it up soon, for his wife expected it done by dinner time. He turned round when he heard his neighbour shout: "Hello, boy!" and saw that the old man was painting the door of his house. "Aren't you lucky?" the old neighbour said. "You've only a fortnight leave. As to me, I'll be free for two months and I'm afraid my wife will make me paint the house from top to bottom."

to whitewash — белить

a fortnight leave — двухнедельный отпуск

from top to bottom — сверху донизу



Father: Dear child, why don't you want to marry Mr. Goodheart?  
He really and truly loves you.

Daughter: How do you know that, Dad?

Father: Because I've been borrowing money from him for six months, and still he keeps coming.

The phone rang at the firehouse. The man took up the receiver and heard a voice inquire:

"Is this the Jerktown Fire Department?"

"Sure is."

"I've just planted a garden with a lot of very expensive plants in it," a woman said.

"That's fine, but where is the fire?"

"You know expensive plants can't be replaced easily."

"Look here, madam," cried the man angrily, "you don't want the firehouse, you want a greenhouse."

"Oh, no, I don't," came the reply, "I'm just going to tell you everything. My neighbour's house is on fire and I don't want your firemen to trample all over my new garden when you get here."

firehouse — помещение пожарной команды

Fire Department — пожарная команда

expensive [iks'pensiv] — дорогой

greenhouse — теплица

to trample ['træmpl] — топтать

An untidy young man applied to the manager of a large department store for work.

"What can you do?" asked the manager.

"Almost anything," answered the young man.

"Can you dust?"

"Yes, indeed."

"Then why don't you begin with your hat?"

The young man hadn't thought of that.

"Can you clean leather goods?"

"Oh, yes."

"Then it's carelessness on your part that your shoes aren't clean."

The young man hadn't thought of that either.

"Well, can you scrub?"

"Yes, indeed."

"Then I can give you something to do. Go out and try your strength on that collar you have on. But don't come back."



to dust — стирать пыль  
leather ['leðə] goods — изделия из кожи  
carelessness — неряшливость  
to scrub — чистить щеткой  
try your strength — испытайте свои силы

76

"Was it love at first sight?"

"No. second sight. The first time he didn't know she had money."

love at first sight — любовь с первого взгляда

77

It was raining hard. When I went to get an umbrella, I found that out of the five umbrellas we have at home there was not one I could use. I decided to take all the five umbrellas to an umbrella-maker. So I took them, and left them at the umbrella-maker's, saying that I would call for the umbrellas on my way home in the evening. When I went to dine in the afternoon, it was still raining very hard. I went to a nearby restaurant, sat down at a table and had been there only a few minutes when a young woman came in and sat down at the same table with me. I was the first to finish and when I got up, I absent-mindedly took her umbrella and started for the door. She called out to me and reminded me that I had taken her umbrella. I returned it to her with many apologies. In the evening I called for my umbrellas, bought a newspaper and got on a tram. The young woman was in the tram too. She looked at me and said: "You've had a successful day today, haven't you?"

to start for the door — направиться к двери  
apology [ə'pɒlədʒi] — извинение

78

A nervous man who lived in one of the suburbs was on his way home from the railway station. The road was dark and lonely. He heard footsteps behind him and he had an uncomfortable feeling that he was being followed. He increased his speed. The footsteps also quickened. The frightened man started running down the street. The footsteps still followed him. At last the man could not run any more. He stopped and asked the man who had followed him:

"What do you want? Why are you following me?"

"I am going to Mr. Brown's. And the man at the station told me to follow you as you live next door. Excuse me, but shall we have much more to go before we get there?"



suburb ['sʌbə:b] — пригород  
to increase [in'kri:s] one's speed — эд. пойти быстрее

79

"Harry dear," exclaimed Mrs. Knowall to her husband, on his return from his office one evening, "I have been dreadfully insulted."

"Insulted?" asked Harry. "By whom?"

"By your mother," answered the young wife, bursting into tears.

"My mother, Mabel? Nonsense! She's miles away!"

Mabel dried her tears.

"I'll tell you all about it, Harry dear," she said. "A letter came to you this morning, addressed in your mother's writing; so, of course, I — I opened it."

"I see," said Harry dryly.

"It was written to you all the way through. Do you understand?"

"I understand. But where does the insult to you come in?"

"It came in the postscript," said Mabel, bursting into tears again. "It said: 'Dear Mabel, don't fail to give this letter to Harry. I want him to have it.'"

She's miles away! — Она же далеко

all the way through — все целиком

where does... come in? — причем же тут

postscript ['pousskript] — постскриптум

don't fail to — смотри не забудь

80

A fisherman brought a very large fish to a rich man's house. The rich man asked the fisherman to fix his own price.

"I don't want money," was the answer. "One hundred lashes on my back is the price of my fish! I will not take one lash less."

The rich man was surprised and said: "Well, this man has a strange wish, but we must have the fish. So let the price be paid."

After fifty lashes had been given, the fisherman cried: "Stop! Stop! I have a partner in this business and he should get his share too."

"Where can I find him?" asked the rich man.

"He is your own servant. He would not let me pass unless I promised to give him half of what I got for the fish."

to fix his own price — назначить цену (за свой товар)

lash — удар хлыстом

share [ʃeə] — доля



# MEALS



1

Mother: You understand me, Kitty, don't you? You mustn't eat any more tonight. It's dangerous to sleep on a full stomach!  
Kitty: Never mind about that, Mother dear. I can sleep on my back.

full stomach ['stʌmək] — полный желудок

2

Bob: Please, Mummy, one more lump of sugar.  
Mother: Well, Bob, haven't I given you five already?  
Bob: Yes, you have. But they have all melted away.

lump of sugar — кусок сахара  
to melt away — растаять

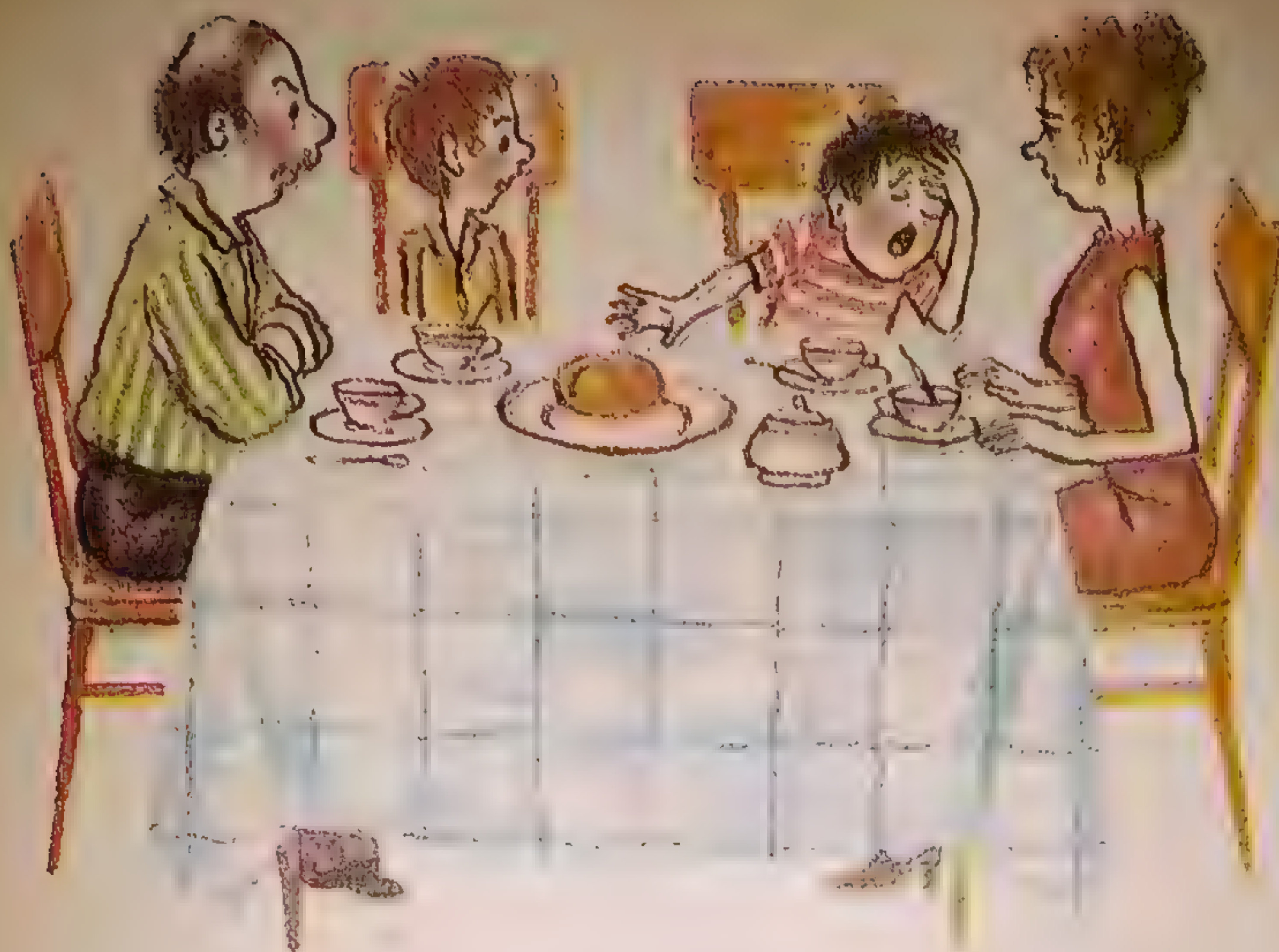
3

The family sat down to their midday meal. Both Charlie and Jimmie were very fond of peaches. Now on the plate there was only one nice peach. Suddenly Charlie began to cry. His mother asked him what was the matter.

"I'm crying because I'm very sorry for Jimmie as there isn't a peach for him," came the reply.

peach [pi:tʃ] — персик





4

Customer (to the waiter): Is that your handkerchief you are using to wipe my plate?

Waiter: Don't worry, sir! It isn't a clean one.

to wipe — вытирать

to worry — беспокоиться

5

Aunt: Here's a nice piece of bread and butter.

Dan: Thank you, auntie.

Aunt: That's good, Dan. I like polite children very much. I like to hear little boys say "thank you".

Dan: If you want to hear me say it again, put some jam on that piece of bread.

6

"What have you brought, waiter? Is it tea or coffee?"

"Can't you taste it, sir?"

"No, I can't."

"Then isn't it the same to you?"

to taste — зд. различать на вкус



M a n: You've given me very small chops, waiter.  
W a i t e r: Yes, sir, but it will take you a long time to eat them.

chop — отбивная котлета

U n c l e: How can you tell whether a hen is old or young?  
A g a t h a: By the teeth.  
U n c l e: Nonsense! Hens have no teeth.  
A g a t h a: But I have.

nonsense — ерунда

"Here, waiter, it seems to me that this fish is not as fresh as the fish you served us last Sunday."  
"Excuse me, sir, it's the very same."

fresh — свежий

to serve [sə:v] — зѡ. подавать

H u s b a n d: Only bread and cheese for dinner today?  
W i f e (*with a sigh*): I'm afraid there's nothing else. You see, the cutlets caught fire and so did the pie and I had to use the soup to put the fire out.

to catch fire — загорѣться

pie — пирог

to put the fire out — потушить огонь

Jones came home one evening and found his young wife crying bitterly.

"What's the matter, darling?" he asked anxiously.

Sobbing she explained that the cat had eaten all the cakes she had made that morning.

"Never mind, my dear," said Jones kindly. "I'll get you another cat tomorrow."

anxiously ['æŋkʃəsli] — с тревогой



A customer had ordered dinner at a restaurant and was waiting for it for a very long time. When the waiter appeared at last, the customer said:

"Are you the waiter who took my order?"

"Yes, sir," was the answer.

"H'm, still looking well, I see," said the customer. "How are your grandchildren?"

restaurant ['restərɔːnt] — ресторан  
grandchildren — внуки

## 13

"Look here, waiter, I just found a collar-button in my soup."

"Oh, thank you, sir. I've been looking all over for it."

collar-button ['kɒlə'bʌtn] — пуговица от воротничка

## 14

It was dinner time. A man entered a restaurant and sat down at a table. He asked for the menu and said to the waiter:

"Here is a sixpence tip for you, tell me what you can recommend me."

The waiter leaned over and whispered: "I'll recommend you to go to another restaurant."

here is a... tip for you — вот вам на чай

## 15

Aunt: I've just made a cake and the mice have eaten it.

Nephew: Why worry about what happens to a few mice?

## 16

"You say you were in the war?" said the restaurant manager as he tasted the new cook's first soup.

"Yes, sir. Officer's cook for three years and wounded twice."

"You are lucky, man. It's a wonder they didn't kill you."

to taste — пробовать

manager — ад. управляющий

It's a wonder ['wʌndə] — Удивительно, что



W i f e: Have a look at the cake I decorated for my birthday party.  
 Don't you think my taste is wonderful?  
 H u s b a n d (*counting the candles on the birthday cake*): Yes,  
 but your arithmetic is terrible.

taste — вкус

candle ['kændl] — свеча

A hungry man who had no money went into an eating-house and asked the waiter:

"What is the price of bread?"

"You get it for nothing, sir," replied the waiter.

"And how much is the sauce?"

"You get that also into the bargain."

"Well, then," said the man, "bring me some bread and sauce."

eating-house — дешёвый ресторан

price — цена

sauce [sɔ:s] — соус

into the bargain ['bæɡɪn] — в придачу

F r i e n d: What do you give your husband when the dinner does not suit him?

M r s. W e s t l e r: His coat and hat.

does not suit — эд. не нравится

Y o u n g h u s b a n d (*angrily*): This meat is not cooked, nor is the pie!

Y o u n g w i f e: I did it like the cookery-book says but as the recipe was for four people and we are two I took half of everything and cooked it for half the time it said.

cookery-book ['kukəri:bʊk] — поваренная книга

recipe ['resɪpi] — рецепт (кулинарный)

C u s t o m e r: This chicken here is the toughest piece of meat I've ever tasted.

W a i t e r: You wouldn't have said so if you had tried our beef-steak.

tough [tʌʃ] — жесткий



"Thanks for the cake, lady!" said Tom. "It was just right."

"What do you mean by that?"

"I mean," said the boy, "that if it were any better, you would never have given it to me, and if it were any worse, I could never have eaten it."

A boy went into a baker's shop to buy a two-penny pie. The baker placed it before him.

"But it doesn't look like a two-penny pie," said the boy.

"What's that?" said the baker. "I made pies before you were born."

"Oh, did you!" remarked the boy taking up the pie and examining it. "This must be one of them."

baker — булочник

H u s b a n d (*angrily*): What! No supper ready? This is the limit.

I'm going to a restaurant

W i f e: Wait just five minutes.

H u s b a n d (*calming down*): Will it be ready then?

W i f e: No, but then I'll go with you.

This is the limit.— Это переходит все границы

A man called at a country inn for a plate of soup. When it was served, he looked at it and said: "Waiter, I can't eat this soup."

The waiter took the plate away and brought another plate of soup.

"I think you'll like it, sir," said he.

"I can't eat this soup," repeated the man.

"Why?" asked the waiter. "This soup is very tasty. Why can't you eat it?"

"Well," said the man, "because I have no spoon."

The last day of the criminal condemned to death came. He was awakened and asked what he would like for breakfast. He was told he could have anything he liked.

"Well," said he, "I think I should like to have some peaches and strawberries."

"You know it's winter now and there are no peaches or strawberries."

"Never mind," said the criminal. "I can wait."



criminal condemned [kən'demd] to death — преступник, приговоренный к казни  
strawberry ['strɔ:bəri] — клубника  
Never mind — Ничего

27

“Why did you give a meal to that awful tramp? He hadn't done any work for you, had he?”

“No, he hadn't. But it was a pleasure to see a man eat a meal without finding fault with the cook.”

tramp — бродяга  
to find fault [fɔ:lt] with — придираться к

28

A rich gentleman, walking in his garden before breakfast, met a poor man whom he knew.

“Good morning, sir,” said the poor man, “you have come out very early this morning.”

“I came out to see if I could get an appetite for breakfast. But what are you doing here?” the gentleman asked suspiciously.

“You see, sir,” answered the poor man, “I just came out to see if I could get a breakfast for my appetite.”

suspiciously [səs'piʃəsli] — подозрительно

29

C u s t o m e r: I've been staying in your town for a fortnight. I'm sorry I didn't come to your restaurant on the very first day of my arrival here.

O w n e r o f t h e r e s t a u r a n t: Really? You don't say so! You're flattering me, sir.

C u s t o m e r: You see, if I had come here a fortnight ago, I would have eaten that fish fresh.

to flatter ['flætə] — льстить  
fresh — свежий



## SPORTS



1

"Are you a basket-ball player, sir?"

"No, I am not."

"Then why are you so tall?"

2

Nick sees two boys running.

"Why are they running?" he asks Pete.

"The boy who comes first gets the prize," says Pete.

"Now I see. But why is the second boy running?" asks Nick.

prize — приз

3

Teacher: You know, children, I think that it is always better to give than to take.

Andy: My father also thinks so.

Teacher: Oh, it's very good, Andy! Your father must be a very good man. What is he?

Andy: He is a boxer.

4

Nick is six. One day he says to his father:

"Daddy, I want to be an Arctic explorer when I grow up."

"That's fine, Nick!" says his father.

"But I want to go into training at once."

"How can you do it?"



"Give me a dollar a day for ice-cream so I'll be healthy and strong and be used to cold," was the answer.

to go into training — начать тренироваться

5

Ben: Can you tell me what Kate is doing?

Bob: Certainly. If the ice is thick, she is skating, but if the ice is thin, she is swimming.

6

"Is he as fast a runner as they say?"

"Is he fast? Say, he can run so fast that all the men he races with have to run twice as fast as he does to keep up with him."

fast [fɑ:st] — быстрый

to race — состязаться в беге

to keep up with — не отставать от

7

"Why do you play golf so much?"

"It keeps me fit."

"What for?"

"Golf."

golf — гольф (*игра*)

to keep smb fit — поддерживать кого-л. в форме

8

"I notice that telling about the fish you caught you vary the size of it for different people!"

"Yes, I never tell a man more than I think he will believe."

to vary ['veəri] — менять, изменять

size [saiz] — размер

9

"I used to shoot tigers in Africa," said the man.

"Nonsense," said his friend. "There are no tigers in Africa."

"Right you are, I shot them all."

to shoot (shot, shot) — стрелять, застрелить

nonsense ['nɒnsəns] — ерунда, чепуха



## 10

"There is so much fish in the river this year!"

"That's right. And this is the second one. Look how big it is!"

"But where is the first one?"

"Oh, it happened ten years ago."

## 11

Jim came to the stadium very late.

"What's the score?" he asked.

"Nothing to nothing," was the answer.

"How nice!" said he. "I haven't missed anything."

What's the score? — Какой счёт?

to miss — пропустить

## 12

A young girl entered a crowded bus with a pair of skates in her hands. A man rose to give her his seat.

"Thank you very much, sir," she said, "but I've been skating all day long and I'm tired of sitting down."

## 13

Poor golfer: Well, how do you like my game?

His friend: I think it's all right, but I still prefer golf

## 14

"Did you have any luck hunting tigers in India?"

"Marvellous luck. Didn't meet a single tiger."

Marvellous ['mævɪləs] luck. — Мне необыкновенно повезло

not a single ['sɪŋɡl] — ни единого, ни одного

## 15

First sportsman: It's getting late and we haven't hit a thing yet.

Second sportsman: Let's miss two more and then go home.

to hit — попасть в (цель)

## 16

First hunter: I saw a lot of tiger tracks about a mile north of here, Mike.



Second hunter (*frightened to death*): Good! Let's go to the south then.

track — след



17

Son: Father, what's the biggest fish you ever caught?  
Father: You'd better go and ask your mother. I've forgotten what I told her.

18

"Any fishing around here?"  
"Some," answered the boy.  
"What did you catch?"  
"You said fishing, not catching."



## 19

"I can tell you the score of the game before it starts."

"What is it?"

"Nothing to nothing."

nothing to nothing — ноль-ноль

## 20

Boxer: Isn't it a long distance from the dressing-room to the ring?

Opponent: Yes, but you won't have to walk back.

ring — ринг

opponent [ə'pounənt] — противник

## 21

"Yes, my husband is ill. He is a victim of football."

"But I didn't know he ever played the game."

"He doesn't. But he is a football fan and he sprained his larynx at the match last Saturday."

victim ['vɪktɪm] — жертва

fan — болельщик

to sprain [spreɪn] one's larynx ['lærɪŋks] — повредить голосовые связки

## 22

Angler: You've been watching me for three hours. Why don't you try fishing yourself?

Onlooker: I can't. I haven't got the patience.

angler ['æŋglə] — рыболов

onlooker ['ɒn,lʊkə] — наблюдатель

patience ['peɪʃəns] — терпение

## 23

"Hello, old man, had any luck shooting?"

"I should say I had! I shot thirteen ducks in one day."

"Were they wild?"

"Well, not exactly; but the farmer who owned them was."

not exactly [nɒt'zæktli] — не совсем

wild — 1. дикий;

2. очень рассерженный



"Mr. Loring is quite a linguist, isn't he?"

"I never knew it."

"Oh, yes, he talks three languages."

"What are they?"

"Boxing, tennis and basketball."

John's parents had given their son a bicycle and were watching proudly as he rode around and around the block. On his first round he shouted: "Look, Mum, no hands." At the second time around: "Look, Mum, no feet."

At the third time: "Look, Mum, no teeth."

block — квартал

on his first round — проезжая первый круг

Boxing instructor (*after the first lesson*): Now, have you any questions to ask?

Beginner (*dazed*): How much is your correspondence course?

dazed [deɪzd] — ошеломленный

correspondence course [ˌkɒrɪˈspɒndəns ˈkɔːs] — курс заочного обучения

First boy (*riding along the road on his bicycle*): Is my tyre flat, Jim?

Second boy (*riding alongside*): It's quite all right, except a little bit at the bottom where it's flat.

tyre [ˈtaɪə] — шина

flat — спустившаяся (о шине)

at the bottom — внизу

At a horse-race a man asked his friend: "Why, Ben, do you call him a good jockey? He never rides a winner."

"That just proves it, John. He can finish last on the best horse in the race."

jockey [ˈdʒɔːki] — жокей

to prove [pruːv] — доказывать



"You would be a very good runner, but for two things."  
 "And what are they?"  
 "Your feet."

but for — если бы не

## 30

A tramp was sleeping behind the bunker of a golf course when the club secretary kicked him and ordered to go away.

"And who are you?" asked the tramp

"I'm secretary of the club," was the answer.

"Well," said the tramp. "That's no way to get new members."

tramp [træmp] бродяга

bunker ['bʌŋkə] ямка (на поле для гольфа)

golf course [kɔ:s] поле для гольфа

to kick — пнуть

That's no way — это не так

## 31

Tennis player: Absolutely shocking! I've never played so badly before.

Onlooker: Oh! You've played before then?

## 32

He had been fishing patiently for several hours without a bite when a boy came up to him and asked:

"Any luck, mister?"

"Run away, boy," said the angler angrily.

"No offence, sir," said the boy as he walked away. "Only I just wanted to say that my father keeps a fish shop down to the right, sir."

bite — клев (рыбы)

no offence [ə'fens] -- не обижаться

## 33

A certain sportsman was playing over a golf course, and playing very badly.

"Dear, dear!" he remarked at last. "There can't be worse players than myself!"

"Maybe there are worse players," said the man who watched him play, "but they don't play."



"It is no sin to play volleyball on Sunday," said one of the players. "But the way some play this game — it's a crime."

sin — грех

crime [kraɪm] — преступление

"Was your father a college man?"

"Yes, but he never mentioned it. The college he went to had a rotten football team."

to mention ['menʃn] — упоминать

rotten ['rɒtn] — зд. дрянной

"What do you think is the most difficult thing for a beginner to learn about basketball?"

"To keep from talking about it all the time."

Golfer Brown: Confound it, you almost hit my wife.

Golfer Greene: Did I? Well, have a shot at mine.

Confound [kən'faund] it — Черт побери

"Ben," said Bill, as he caught up with Ben on the way back to camp, "are all the rest of the boys out of the wood yet?"

"Yes," said Ben.

"All six of them?"

"Yes, all six of them."

"Are they all safe?"

"Yes, they are."

"Then," said Bill proudly, "I've shot a deer."

safe — невредимый

deer [diə] — олень

"How long have you been learning to skate?"

"Oh, about a dozen sittings."

sitting — 1. сидение; зд. падение  
2. сеанс



"My doctor says I can't play tennis."  
 "So he's played with you too?"

Wife: You think so much of your football that you don't even remember when we were married.

Husband: Of course I do, my dear. It was the day when the score was six to one in favour of our team.

in favour ['feɪvə] — в пользу



One learns to swim by swimming. A young man was anxious to learn swimming. But in his first attempt at swimming he almost got drowned. When he came to himself, his first words were: "I'll never try to swim until I'm a complete master of this art."

to be anxious ['æŋksɪəs] to — жд. очень хотеть

to get drowned [draʊnd] — утонуть



John: Were you lucky at the races yesterday?  
 Pete: I should just think I was! I found a quarter after the last race, so I didn't have to walk home.

quarter ['kwɔ:tə] — монета в 25 центов

"What do you think of the Horse Show?"  
 "I didn't see a single dress I liked."

As Bobby had bad marks, his father said: "If you learn well, I'll give you a bicycle."

"All right!" said Bobby. "I'll learn well."

In a month Bobby got bad marks again. His father asked him:

"Bobby, why have you got bad marks again? What did you do after school?"

"I learned cycling," was the answer.

Beginner: I want to hire a horse. How long can I have it out?  
 Groom: Well, sir, we usually leave that to the horse

to hire ['haɪə] — нанимать

we... leave that to the horse — это дело — дело его

Mrs. Green (at her first football game): Oh, isn't it awful!

Why, they will kill that poor boy underneath!

Daughter: Don't be silly, Mother! He doesn't mind it; he's unconscious by this time.

underneath [ˌʌndə'niθ] — внизу

unconscious [ʌn'kɒnʃəs] — без сознания

"What is your brother in college?"

"A half-back."

"I mean in studies."

"Oh, in studies he's way back."

half-back — спорт. полузащитник

way back — далеко позади



Fan: How about your team? Are they good losers?  
 Coach (*angrily*): Good? They are not only good. They're perfect.

coach [kəʊtʃ] — тренер

good loser — весело, бодро переносящий проигрыш

## 50

"By the way, Mary, did you put my cooking outfit in the bag?  
 I'll want to fry some of the fish we catch."

"Yes, dear, and you'll also find a can of sardines there too,  
 and some pastry and cheese."

outfit — оборудование, принадлежности

fry — жарить

pastry ['peɪstri] — печенье

## 51

"Football," cried the angry father "Ugh!"

"But surely," said his friend, "your son won high honours in  
 football at his college?"

"He did," agreed the father.

"First he was a quarter-back."

"Yes."

"Then a half-back."

"Yes."

"Then a full-back."

"Yes."

"And now — what is he now?"

"Now," roared the father, "he is a hunchback!"

Ugh! [ʌh] — Тьфу!

quarter-back — спорт. футболист, который играет возле своих ворот

half-back — спорт. полузащитник

full-back — спорт. защитник

hunchback ['hʌntʃbæk] — горбун

## 52

Bob: Aren't you coming in swimming?

Betha: I can't. A moth ate my bathing suit.

Bob: He must have been on a diet.

A moth ate my bathing suit. — Моль съела мой купальник



Two inexperienced hunters were out hunting. Their bags were empty as they failed to shoot a single bird. At last the hunters saw a large flight of wild ducks not far from them.

"Now fire at them, fire at them," whispered one of the hunters. They both fired and both failed to hit their aim.

"Nothing doing!" said one of them and added: "After all, haven't we made them shift their quarters?"

flight [flaɪt] — стая (птиц)

Nothing doing! — Ничего не поделаешь!

to shift one's quarters — воен. уступить позиции

A keen golfer had a charming girl on his right at dinner and all the time was talking about his achievements with the clubs hardly allowing her time to say more than "Really!".

During the dessert he remarked: "I'm afraid I was talking nothing but golf."

"Oh, never mind," said the girl, "but you might tell me: what's golf?"

keen — эд. страстный, увлеченный

achievement [ə'tʃi:vment] — достижение

club — бита, клюшка

dessert [dɪ'zɜ:t] — десерт

A man left his umbrella in a hotel, with a card on it saying: "This umbrella belongs to a man who can deal a blow of two hundred and fifty pounds. I'm coming back in five minutes."

He returned but did not find his umbrella. There was a card in its place which read: "This card belongs to a man who runs 20 miles an hour. He isn't coming back."

to deal a blow — нанести удар

pound [paʊnd] — фунт (мера веса)

H u s b a n d (to his wife): I don't see why you are so angry with me. Haven't I been really lucky in my fishing this time?

W i f e: You have, I am sure. But when you go fishing next time, you will let me buy all the fish for you to bring home. If I choose it myself, it will at least be fresh.

to choose — выбирать



An angler had been sitting for three hours trying to catch a fish. He was tired and hungry but he couldn't catch anything. He was about to leave the place when a woman and her small son came along.

"Oh," cried the boy, "do let me see you catch a fish!"

The mother got angry with her boy and, turning to the angler said: "Now don't catch a fish for him until he says 'please'."

While a shooting party was out for a day's sport a raw young sportsman was observed taking aim at a pheasant running along the ground.

As it is unsportsmanlike to shoot a bird while it is on the ground, a companion shouted:

"Don't shoot a running bird!"

"What do you take me for?" answered the raw sportsman angrily. "Can't you see I'm waiting till it stops?"

shooting party — участники охоты

raw [rɔ:] — зд. неопытный

pheasant ['fɛznt] — фазан

unsportsmanlike [ʌn'spɔ:tsmənlaɪk] — недостойный спортсмена

The boxer returned to his dressing-room looking drawn and haggard, for he had had a terrific beating in the ring. He felt absolutely done, and looked it. He opened his eyes when the promoter approached.

"It was hard for you, Jack," said the promoter as he looked down at him, "but I've good news for you!"

"Well, what's the good news?"

"I've been lucky enough to fix a return match for you."

drawn [drɔ:n] and haggard ['hæɡəd] — измученный

terrific [tə'rifɪk] beating — ужасающее поражение

promoter [prə'moutə] — менеджер

to fix [fiks] — назначить

return match — матч-реванш

A very thin full-back was annoyed by the attentions of a small dog during a rugby match.

At last, the back turned and shouted to the spectators: "Whoever owns this dog might call him off."





A voice responded: "Come here, Spot. There are no bones, boy, there are only legs."

spectator [spek'teɪtə] — зритель

back = full-back — спорт. защитник

to respond [rɪ'spɒnd] — эд. отзываться

## 61

"That's very good of you to cheer the team that gave you such a handsome beating," said a stranger to a member of the village football team.

"Oh, yes," said the footballer, "we'll talk to them later on."

"So, I see. By the way, where's the referee?"

"Oh, he is in the river."

to cheer [tʃɪə] — приветствовать

## 62

He was so proud of his play as a golfer that he wanted to show off. So he invited his mother-in-law along to watch him.

As he started the game he said to his opponent: "I'm anxious to make a terrific drive. That's my wife's mother standing over there."

"Sorry, old man," said the other, "but you can't expect to hit her at two hundred yards."



to show off — зѣ. продемонстрировать свое умение  
mother-in-law — теща  
terrific drive — сильный удар  
yard [jɑ:d] — ярд (= 91 см)

63

A man was fishing in a pond one day when a country boy who had been watching him from a distance approached him and asked:

"How many fish have you got?"

"None yet," he was told.

"Well, it's not so bad. I know a fellow," said the boy, "who fished here for two weeks and he didn't get any more than you got in half an hour."

pond [pɒnd] — пруд  
fellow ['felou] — парень

64

Mr. Brown came to visit his neighbour Mrs. Smith. She offered him a cup of tea. While they were away drinking tea her boys began to play football with the man's hat. When Mrs. Smith and her visitor came back, the man took his hat and angrily exclaimed:

"Just look, Mrs. Smith, what your boys have done to my hat!"

Mrs. Smith caressing the boys cried: "Oh, dear! I'm so sorry! Now, Tom and Harry, say how sorry you are, and Mr. Brown won't mind."

to caress [kə'res] — ласкать

65

He had hard luck fishing and on his way home he entered the fish market and said to the salesman:

"Just stand over there and throw me five of the biggest of those trout!"

"Throw them? What for?" asked the man in surprise.

"So that I can tell the family I caught them. I may be a poor fisherman, but I'm not a liar," was the answer.

market ['mɑ:kɪt] — рынок  
salesman ['seɪlzmən] — продавец  
trout [traʊt] — (pl без измен.) форель  
liar ['laɪə] — лгун

66

During a boxing contest the two boxers suddenly stopped fighting, spoke with each other, and got back to their corners.



"What's the matter with you?" cried the referee. "Why have you stopped fighting?"

"We had to," said one of the boxers. "We couldn't keep up with the commentator."

to keep up with — держаться наравне с, не отставать от

67

While a small boy was fishing one Sunday morning, he accidentally fell into the river.

As an old man was helping him out, he asked the boy:

"How did you come to fall in the river, my little man?"

"I didn't come to fall in the river, I came to fish," replied the boy.

How did you come to fall...? — Как же случилось, что ты упал...?

68

A boxer was to fight a heavyweight champion. When he reached the ring, it was noticed that he hung back.

"It's all right, Sam," said his trainer. "Just say to yourself, 'I'm going to beat him,' and you'll win."

"That's no good, boss," replied Sam. "I know what a liar I am."

heavyweight ['heviweɪt] — спорт. тяжеловес

to hang back — колебаться, не решаться



## SHOPPING



1

A mother said to her little girl: "I want you to buy some bread, butter and cheese. Be a good girl, Kate, and run down to the shop, you know how — one foot here, the other there."

"Oh, Mummy, dear," answered Kate, "I'll be happy to go on one foot, but I don't know which one to take and which to leave behind."

to leave behind — оставить (дома)

2

A shopkeeper bought ten pounds of butter from a country woman. Each pound was wrapped up as a separate parcel. The shopkeeper weighed them and found them all too light. He complained to the woman, who said:

"If they are too light, it is your own fault. I weighed them with a pound of soap that I bought at your shop. My pounds of butter are as heavy as your pounds of soap."

to wrap [ræp] up — завернуть

separate ['seprɪt] — отдельный

to weigh [wei] — взвешивать

it is your own fault [fɔ:lt] — это ваша вина

3

Head grocer (*making up the wholesale order for the week*):

George, do we want any new-laid eggs?

Assistant: No, sir. We have enough in the store-room for another six weeks.



wholesale ['houlseil] order — оптовый заказ  
new-laid eggs — свежие (букв. только что снесенные) яйца  
store-room — кладовая

4

Lady customer (*angrily*): I ordered twelve oranges and you've sent only eleven.

Greengrocer (*confidentially*): Quite right, lady; but one was so bad that I didn't trouble to send it.

lady customer ['kʌstəmə] — покупательница  
greengrocer ['grɪn,ɡrouzə] — торговец фруктами и овощами  
confidentially [ˌkɒnfɪ'denʃəli] — доверительно

5

A rich shopkeeper fell ill. All his family came up to his room. The old man opened his eyes and asked:

"Is Pete here?"

"Yes, I'm here, Pa," said Peter.

"And where's Mike?"

"Of course, I'm here too."

"And Mary, is she here too?"

"Yes, dear, here I am."

"Oh," cried the old man in anger, "if you're all here, then who's looking after the shop?"

6

"What!" exclaimed the customer. "Three shillings for a dozen eggs! Why, that's sixpence each."

"Yes, ma'am," replied the grocer, "but you must remember that one egg is a whole day's work for a hen."

dozen ['dʌzən] — дюжина

7

A shopkeeper was called by his customers the little rascal. A stranger asked him why that nickname had been given to him.

"To distinguish me from the rest of my trade," said he, "who are great rascals."

rascal ['ræskəl] — мошенник

nickname ['nɪkneɪm] — прозвище, кличка

to distinguish [dɪ'stɪŋɡwɪʃ] me from the rest of my trade — чтобы отличить меня от других торговцев



A boy went into a baker's shop and asked for a loaf of bread. When the baker gave it to him, the boy saw that it was very small. He said to the baker: "This loaf isn't heavy enough!"

"Never mind," answered the baker, "you'll have less to carry."

The boy put a penny on the counter, and took the loaf.

"There is not enough money!" exclaimed the baker.

"Never mind," replied the boy, "you'll have less to count."

baker ['beɪkə] — булочник

A customer entered a shop and found a small boy crying. He came up to him and asked: "What are you crying for, my lad?"

The shopkeeper's son answered: "My father is selling some new soap, and every time a customer comes in I have to wash to show it off."

lad — мальчик

to show off — демонстрировать

A countryman entered a fishmonger's shop with his dog. His dog stood near a dish full of lobsters. Suddenly one of them seized hold of the animal's tail; and the greatly frightened dog set off down the street howling and running at a great speed. The fishmonger who was afraid of losing his lobster said to the astonished countryman: "Whistle to your dog, sir."

Thinking that the lobster was quite as much to blame, if no more so, than the dog, the man answered: "Whistle you! Whistle to your lobster!"

countryman — сельский житель, крестьянин

fishmonger ['fɪʃmɒŋɡə] — торговец рыбой

lobster ['lɒbstə] — рак, омар

to seize [si:z] hold of — ухватиться за

to set off — эд. помчаться

to howl [haʊl] — выть

to whistle ['wɪsl] — свистеть

was quite as much to blame, if no more so, than — так же виноват, если не больше, чем



A tourist went to a shop in London. He wanted to buy a hat but as he didn't know English well enough he said to a shop-girl: "I want to buy a grey hut. How much does it cost?"

"Why, we haven't got any huts," the girl exclaimed in surprise. "Go to the forest and you'll buy them there."

"Poor tourist," she thought. "What has happened to him?"

"Poor shop-girl," he thought. "What has happened to her?"

hut — хижина



A woman visited every department of a big New York store and didn't buy anything. One of the saleswomen made at last a mild protest: "Madam, are you shopping here?"

The lady looked round and replied: "Certainly! What else should I be doing?"

The saleswoman remarked: "Well, madam, I thought perhaps you were taking an inventory."

mild — мягкий, слабый

to take an inventory [in'ventəri] — проводить инвентаризацию



A boy applied for a job in a butcher shop.

"How much will you give me?" he asked.

"Three dollars a week; but what can you do to make yourself useful around a butcher shop?"

"Anything."

"Well, can you dress a chicken?"

"Not on \$ 3 a week," said the boy.

to apply [ə'plai] for a job — обратиться за работой

to dress — наряжать

to dress a chicken — разделывать цыпленка

William was always a bad payer, but one day he walked into the shop of the local grocer, and paid the whole of his account without saying a word.

"That letter you sent me did it," he explained to the man behind the counter. "I've never seen one like it. Why, it would get money out of a stone. How did you put it together?"

The grocer smiled sadly

"I took the best bits of the letter my wife sent me when she was vacationing at an expensive resort," he explained

bad payer — неисправный должник

to put together — сочинить, составить

to vacation [və'keɪʃən] — проводить отпуск

resort [rɪ'zɔ:t] — курорт

The deceased groceryman knocked at the Gates of Hell and asked entrance.

"Why did you come here?" demanded Satan.

"I want to collect some old accounts from a couple of my former customers who died before me."

"How do you know they are here?"

"Well, every time I tried to collect, this is the place they recommended me to go."

deceased [dɪ'seɪzd] — умерший

groceryman ['ɡrɒsərɪmən] — бакалейщик

Hell — ад

Satan ['seɪtən] — сатана

to collect (an account) — получить по счету



Mother: I sent my little boy for two pounds of plums and you sent only a pound and a half.

Shopkeeper: My scales are all right, madam. Have you weighed your little boy?

scales [skeilz] — весы

The grocer was busy serving customers, when he noticed a small boy standing near an open box of sweet biscuits.

"Well, my boy," said the grocer, "what are you up to?"

"Nothing."

"Nothing? Well, it looks as if you were trying to take a biscuit."

"You are wrong, mister. I'm trying not to."

grocer — бакалейщик

to serve — обслуживать

what are you up to? — что у тебя на уме?

Customer: Will these shoes wear long?

Salesman: Wear long? Why, sir, nobody has ever come for a second pair.

A young man approached the counter at which postcards were being sold and asked: "Have you anything sentimental?"

"Here's a lovely one," replied the salesgirl, "look here. 'T the only girl I ever loved.'"

"That's fine! I'll take four — no — six of those, please."

A man who was selling brooms went into a barber's shop to get shaved. The barber bought one of his brooms and, after shaving him, asked the price of the broom.

"Twopence," said the man.

"No, no," said the barber. "I'll give you a penny and if that doesn't satisfy you, take the broom back."



The man took it and asked what he had to pay for his shaving.  
"A penny," said the barber.

"No, no," said the man. "I'll give you a halfpenny and if that doesn't satisfy you, put on my beard again."

broom — метла

barber's shop — парикмахерская

to get shaved — побриться

beard — борода

## 21

A young man went to a bazaar but decided to buy nothing there. A charming young girl offered him a cigarette-case. He refused to buy saying: "I don't smoke." She offered him a pen. "No," said he, "I don't write." Then she brought out a box of chocolates, but he said, "I don't eat sweets."

Finally the clever girl offered him a cake of soap. He had to buy it as he couldn't say, "I don't wash."

bazaar [bə'zɑː] — благотворительный базар

cigarette-case — портсигар

cake of soap — кусок мыла

## 22

A clerk in a shoe store was trying to persuade his customer that a certain pair of uncomfortable shoes fitted him.

"Those shoes are too narrow and too pointed," said the customer.

"Oh," said the salesman, "but they are wearing narrow, pointed shoes this season."

"That may be," answered the man, "but unfortunately I'm still wearing my last season's feet."

clerk — зд. продавец

to persuade — убеждать

to fit — быть впору, подходить

pointed — зд. остроносый

## 23

A rather stout lady was making herself a nuisance in a big store. Nothing, it seemed, would suit her, and the unfortunate salesgirl got tired of her.

"Haven't you anything ready-made that will fit me?" asked the lady at last.

"Yes, the umbrellas and the handkerchiefs are downstairs, madam," said the girl.

to make oneself a nuisance — надоедать

ready-made — готовый

## 24

"I can't do anything with Jones," said the manager. "I've had him in three departments but he dozes all day."



"Put him at the pajama counter," suggested the owner of the shop, "and fasten a card on him with these words: 'Our pajamas are of such superior quality that even the man who sells them cannot keep awake.'"

manager ['mænidʒə] — управляющий

to doze [doʊz] — дремать

pajama [pə'dʒɑ:mə] counter — отдел, где продаются пижамы

superior [sjʊ'piəriə] quality — превосходное качество



25

First Floorwalker: Poor old Perkins has completely lost his hearing. I'm afraid he'll lose his job.

Second Floorwalker: Nonsense! He is to be transferred to the Complaint Department.

floorwalker — амер. администратор универмага

to lose one's hearing — потерять слух

to transfer [træns'fɜ:] — переводить

Complaint Department — отдел жалоб



"How much are your peaches?"

"A penny each, madam."

"I'll have one, please."

"Are you giving a party, madam?"

A small boy went into the grocer's shop and said:

"I want a pound of butter exactly like the last. If it is not the same, Mother said we don't want it."

"It is very nice to find people have such a good opinion of my butter," said the grocer.

The boy replied: "Oh, it's not that. A lot of Father's relations are coming to tea, and Mother doesn't want them to come again."

In the market-place two schoolboys stop before a small shop. In the shop-window some new agricultural implements are displayed. One of the boys says to the other pointing to an odd-looking appliance:

"If you tell me what the thing is for, I'll give you a shilling. But mind if you guess wrong you'll give me two."

"Agreed!" exclaimed the other. "It's for sale! Now hand me the shilling."

market-place — рыночная площадь

shop-window — витрина магазина

agricultural implement — сельскохозяйственное орудие

odd-looking — странный (на вид)

appliance [э'пла́эпс] — приспособление

for sale — на продажу

H u s b a n d: Why don't you want to take that nice little hat? It suits you to perfection.

W i f e: It does. But you see, nobody wears such hats now.

H u s b a n d: Then take that one.

W i f e: How can I? Everybody wears such hats now.

It suits you to perfection.— Она тебе очень идет.

A man entered a shop and asked for a threepenny loaf, which was immediately placed before him. As if suddenly changing



his mind, he said he should prefer threepennyworth of milk instead. This he drank off, and pushing the loaf towards the shopkeeper, was about to leave, when the payment was asked for the milk.

"Sure, and haven't I given you the loaf for the milk?"

"Well, but you didn't pay for the loaf, you know."

"True, and why should I? Don't you see I didn't take the loaf?" and away he quietly walked, leaving the shopkeeper in deep confusion.

threepennyworth of milk — на три пенса молока

payment ['peɪmənt] — плата

in deep confusion [kən'fju:ʒən] — в глубоком замешательстве

### 31

A butcher made rabbit sausage. It was in great demand, and he began to adulterate it with horse-flesh. His customers, however, found out the adulteration, and an action was brought against him.

"How much horse-flesh do you mix with rabbit-meat?" asked the judge.

"Oh, about fifty-fifty," said he.

"What do you mean by fifty-fifty?" inquired the judge.

"One rabbit," replied the butcher, "and one horse."

butcher ['bʊtʃə] — мясник

to be in great demand [di'mænd] — пользоваться большим спросом

to adulterate — подмешивать

horse-flesh — конина

to bring an action against smb — возбудить дело против кого-л.

judge [dʒʌdʒ] — судья

### 32

It was seven o'clock in the morning. There was a knock at the door of a flat on the second floor. The servant opened the door, and the milkman handed her a can "There you are, a quart of milk."

The servant took the can, lifted the cover, and saw nothing but some water at the bottom of the can. She called back the milkman, "Here, I say! It's water that you have given me!"

The milkman quickly returned, glanced at the bottom of the can, and exclaimed: "What a stupid fellow I am! I've forgotten to add milk to it!"

milkman — продавец молока

can — бидон

quart [kwɔ:t] — кварта (= 1,14 л)

to lift the cover ['kʌvə] — поднять крышку



A man entered a butcher's shop.

"If I leave equal to what I take away, will you trust me till tomorrow?" he asked.

"Certainly," answered the butcher.

"Well, then give me two pounds of sausages, and keep half of them till I come back and pay you."

equal ['i:kwəl] to what I take away — столько же, сколько и заберу  
to trust [trʌst] — доверять

A large masculine-looking woman entered the store and said in a loud tone:

"I want to get something out of the ordinary, something that none of the other women are wearing, something, however, that will suit me."

"Certainly, madam. Men's clothing, third floor, front."

a... masculine-looking ['mæskjʊlɪn,lʊkɪŋ] woman мужеподобная женщина  
out of the ordinary — необычный

C u s t o m e r: See here! I thought you said these seeds would grow in any climate.

S h o p k e e p e r: They will. But if you want to plant them in this climate, you have to put them into a hothouse, of course.

seeds — семена  
hothouse — теплица

A very fat man walked about in the meat market. The butchers started their usual cry of: "What do you buy? What do you buy?" The fat man said he didn't want anything. At last a butcher went up to him and eyeing his figure, whispered to him:

"Just say you buy your meat from me, sir, and you'll make my fortune."

to eye — пристально разглядывать  
you'll make my fortune ['i:ʃən] — вы сделаете меня богачом

An ultra-fashionable woman went into a hat-shop and tried on hat after hat. She said to the salesgirl: "I want one that's really different."



The salesgirl was losing her patience and began to show her the whole stock of hats again until they were piled on the dressing-table in a pyramid.

The woman was trying on hat after hat again until she came to one which really looked different. She put it on and exclaimed: "This is exactly what I want."

The poor salesgirl, only too glad to get rid of her, didn't tell her that she had picked up the shade from the dressing-table lamp.

ultra-fashionable [ˌʌltrəˈfæʃənəbl] — ультрамодный

stock — запас

to pile — сваливать кучей

to get rid of — избавиться от

shade — абажур





## HEALTH



1

Mother: Oh, don't you think we had better send for the doctor?

Father: He has felt bad before this, and got over it.

Mother (*anxiously*): Yes, but never during holidays.

to get over — эд. поправиться

2

"Doctor," called the small boy, "come up to our house quick."

"Who is ill?" asked the doctor.

"Everybody but me. I had been naughty so they didn't give me any of the nice mushrooms Pa had picked in the forest."

3

Young doctor: Why do you always ask your patients what they have for dinner?

Old doctor: It's very important, for according to their menus I make out my bill.

4

Over the doctor's telephone came a call from a man who said that his small son had swallowed his pen. The doctor said: "I'll come at once. What are you doing now?"

"I'm using my pencil," was the answer.

call — вызов

to swallow ['swələu] — проглотить



"The doctor said he'd have me on my feet in a fortnight."  
 "And did he keep his word?"  
 "Sure, I've had to sell my car."

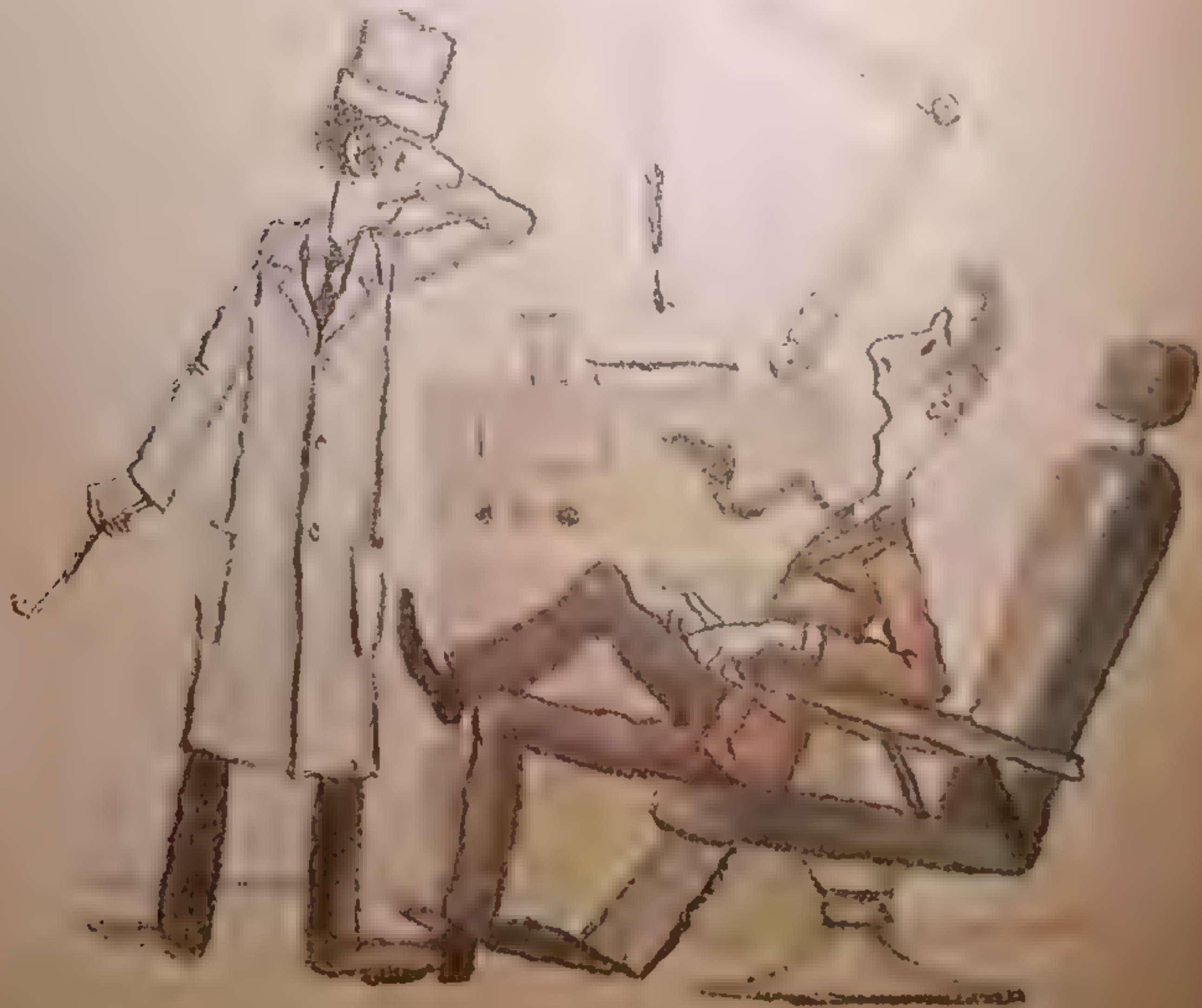
he'd have me on my feet — он поставит меня на ноги

"I saw the doctor today about my loss of memory."  
 "What did he do?"  
 "Made me pay him in advance."

loss of memory — потеря памяти  
 in advance [əd'vɑ:ns] — вперед, заранее

Dentist: What's the matter? I haven't touched your tooth yet.

Man (in the dentist's chair): No, but you are standing on my foot.





Mistress: Did my son get into any trouble while I was out?  
 Maid: Nothing, except that he swallowed a bug, but I gave him some of this insect powder, so there's nothing to worry about.

except [ɪk'sept] that — если не считать того, что  
 a bug — клоп  
 insect powder ['paʊdə] — яд для насекомых

Doctor: What's the matter with you?  
 Bob: Oh, doctor. I'm ill, very ill.  
 Doctor: Then show me your tongue  
 Bob: Oh, dear doctor, no tongue can tell you how ill I am.

tongue [tʌŋ] — язык

The doctor smiled as he entered the room.  
 "You look much better today."  
 "Yes, I followed the directions on your medicine bottle."  
 "What were they?"  
 "Keep the bottle tightly corked."

to follow the directions [dɪ'rekʃnz] — следовать указаниям  
 tightly corked [kɔ:kt] — закупоренный

A young doctor was asked by his friend: "How do you like your new profession?"  
 "My profession is much better than my practice," was the answer accompanied by a deep sigh.

accompanied by a deep sigh [ə'kɒmpənid] — сопровождаемый глубоким вздохом

Patient: I have a bad cold in my head, doctor. What will you advise me to take for it?  
 Doctor: First take a clean handkerchief and if that doesn't help, come to see me again.

I have a bad cold in my head — у меня сильный насморк  
 to advise [əd'vaɪz] — советовать



"You may have the room," said the landlady, "but I will have no children, no gramophones, wireless or other noises."

"Then I am afraid I can't have the room," said the man, "my doctor has ordered me to gargle three times a day."

wireless ['waɪəlɪs] — радио

to gargle ['gɑːɡl] — полоскать горло

Doctor: What is your profession?

Patient (*proudly*): I'm a gentleman.

Doctor: Well, you'll have to try something else; it doesn't agree with you.

it doesn't agree with you — это вредно для вашего здоровья

"Doctor," asked a patient, "I'm feeling much better now, and I want you to let me have your bill."

"Nonsense, sir," said the doctor, "do be calm; you are not strong enough for that yet!"

Attending one of his patients a doctor observed that he was very punctual in taking all his medicines and he exclaimed in the pride of his heart:

"Ah! My dear sir, you deserve to be ill."

in the pride of one's heart — с гордостью, гордо  
to deserve [dɪ'zɜːv] — заслуживать

"What's the matter with you, Sam? You look very tired."

"I am. I've caught insomnia."

"Don't be silly. You can't catch insomnia. It's not contagious."

"It is, when your baby has it."

insomnia [ɪn'sɒmniə] — бессонница

Don't be silly. — Не говори глупостей.

contagious [kən'teɪdʒəs] — заразный



She: I cook and cook and what do I get? Nothing.  
He: You are lucky, my dear. I get indigestion.

indigestion [ˌɪndɪˈdʒestʃən] — несварение желудка

A doctor attending a lady several times had received two pounds each visit; at last, when he was going away, she gave him but one, at which he was surprised, and looking at the floor, said: "I believe, madam, I've dropped a pound."

"No, sir," replied the lady, "it is I that have dropped it."

to drop — эд. уронить

Dentist's daughter: Well, dear, have you asked Father for my hand?

Young man: No, every time I step into his office, I lose courage. Today I allowed him to pull another tooth.

to ask for smb's hand -- просить руки

to lose courage [ˈkʌrɪdʒ] — терять мужество

to pull a tooth — вырвать зуб

Young nurse (*waking up her sleeping patient*): Wake up!  
Wake up! You've got to take your sleeping draught.

sleeping draught [draʊt] — снотворное

Auntie (*to her little niece*): They tell me you had toothache yesterday. Has it stopped aching now?

Little niece: Don't know, Auntie.

Auntie (*greatly surprised*): Don't you know? Surely you know if the tooth is aching now.

Little niece: No, I don't; the dentist has got it.

toothache [ˈtuːθeɪk] — зубная боль

"Doctor," said a patient, "if there is anything the matter with me, don't frighten me half to death by giving it a scientific name. Just tell me what it is in plain English."



"Well," said the doctor, "to be frank with you, you are just plain lazy."

"Thank you, doctor," sighed the patient with relief. "Now give me a scientific name for it, so I can go home and tell my wife."

if there is anything the matter with me — если я чем-то болен  
in plain English — простым языком  
frank — откровенный  
to sigh with relief — вздохнуть с облегчением  
so I can — чтобы я мог

24

Doctor: Could you pay for an operation if I thought it necessary?  
Patient: Would you think one was necessary if I couldn't pay for it?

25

"So you have been cured of your insomnia? It must be an immense relief."

"You've said it. Why, I lie awake half the night thinking how I used to suffer from it."

to be cured of — излечиться от  
immense relief — огромное облегчение  
You've said it. — Вот именно.

26

She: Did the doctor diagnose your case?  
He: Yes.

She: How long did it take him?

He: About a minute and a half. I had an old suit on.

to diagnose ['daɪəgnəʊz] smb's case — ставить диагноз  
I had an old suit on. — На мне был старый костюм

27

A rich man who was fond of eating much and spent very much money on it suffered of all kinds of illnesses. His friend advised him to go to a doctor. The gentleman told the doctor a long story about his health, and then asked him what to do.  
"Live on sixpence a day, and earn it," was the answer.

to earn [ɜ:n] — зарабатывать



"I'm taking a rest cure."

"Oh, what do you do?"

"I sit every day for three hours in the waiting-room of a very busy doctor."

rest cure [kjuə] — лечение отдыхом  
waiting-room — приемная

A woman called one day at a house where there were three children, a boy and two girls. The boy had a cold and one of the girls had measles, and everyone was giving them presents. The other girl sat alone crying bitterly. The woman went over to her and asked:

"Why are you crying so bitterly?"

"They have all got measles, and colds, and everybody is buying them presents, and I haven't got anything," said the girl and cried again.

to have a cold — быть простуженным  
measles ['mizlz] — корь

Ann: I have a toothache.

Kate: I would take the tooth out if it were mine.

Ann: And so would I if it were yours.

Doctor: When people come to consult me, I always recommend them that wonderful tonic of mine. And I never heard a word of complaint. Why is it so? Just because my tonic works wonders!

A voice from the crowd: Dead men tell no tales.

tonic ['tɒnɪk] — тонизирующее, укрепляющее средство

complaint [kəm'pleɪnt] — жалоба

to work wonders ['wʌndəz] — творить чудеса

Dead men tell no tales. — Мертвые не разговаривают.

A man who suffered from rheumatism consulted a doctor who immediately wrote him a prescription. As the patient was going away, the doctor called him back:

"By the way, sir, if my prescription helps you, please let me



know, as I am myself troubled by the same illness, and have tried in vain to cure it," said he.

rheumatism [ˈrʊmətɪzəm] — ревматизм  
to consult a doctor — обратиться к врачу  
prescription [prɪsˈkrɪpʃən] — рецепт  
to be troubled by — страдать от  
in vain — напрасно, тщетно

33

A doctor who had taken up as his speciality the treatment of skin diseases, was asked by his friend how he happened to select that branch of medicine.

"There were three good reasons," replied the doctor. "My patients never get me out of bed at night, they never die, and they never get well."

had taken up as his speciality [ˌspeʃɪˈælɪtɪ] — специализировался по  
the treatment of skin diseases [dɪˈzɪzɪz] — лечение кожных заболеваний  
to select [sɪˈlekt] — выбирать  
branch [brɑːntʃ] — отрасль

34

Mr. Brown had taken his boy to have an aching tooth pulled. When the job was finished, the dentist said:

"I'm sorry, sir, but I'll have to charge you five dollars for pulling that tooth."

"Five dollars!" cried Mr. Brown. "Why, I understood that you charged only one dollar for such work!"

"Yes," answered the dentist, "but your son shouted so loudly that he scared four other patients out of the office."

he scared [skeəd] four... patients out of the office — зд. четверо пациентов в страхе убежали из приемной

35

Uncle: Well, Bob, what are you going to do this vacation?  
Bob: Last year I had mumps and chicken-pox. This year I don't know what I'm going to do.

mumps [ˈmʌmps] — свинка  
chicken-pox — ветряная оспа

36

Doctor: I can do nothing for your complaint. It is hereditary.  
Patient: Then send the bill to my father.

complaint [kəmˈpleɪnt] — болезнь, недуг  
hereditary [hɪˈredɪtəri] — наследственный



A doctor was much annoyed by his patients' habit to stop him in the street and ask his medical advice free of charge. He decided to stop it. So one day when he met one of his patients who exclaimed: "Oh, doctor, I'm glad to see you; I've such a severe pain in my side," he showed a great concern and said: "Shut your eyes and show your tongue."

Then he went away, leaving the patient standing in the street with his tongue out.

to annoy [ə'noɪ] — надоедать, раздражать

habit ['hæbɪt] — привычка

free of charge — бесплатно

severe [si'veɪə] pain — ужасная боль

to show a great concern [kən'sə:n] — проявить глубокое участие





"My little daughter has swallowed a gold ring and has got to be operated on. I wonder if Dr. Brown is to be trusted?"  
 "Without a doubt. He is absolutely honest."

gold ring — золотое кольцо  
 to trust — доверять  
 honest ['ɒnɪst] — честный

Doctor: I think you are better today. You cough more easily this morning.  
 Patient: I should. I've been practising all night.

to cough [kɔɪ] — кашлять  
 I should. — эд. Еще бы!  
 to practise ['præktɪs] — упражняться, практиковаться

Patient: Do you pull teeth painlessly?  
 Dentist: Not always. The other day I nearly dislocated my wrist.

painlessly — безболезненно  
 to dislocate ['dɪsləkeɪt] one's wrist [rɪst] — вывихнуть руку

"Mamma, I've got a stomach ache," said Nelly aged four.  
 "That's because you've been without lunch. Your stomach is empty. You would feel better if you had something in it," said her mother.

That afternoon a visitor called and in the course of conversation he said that he had been suffering all day from a headache.

"That's because your head is empty," said Nelly. "You'd feel better if you had something in it."

stomach ache ['stʌmək,eɪk] — боль в животе  
 empty — пустой,  
 in the course of conversation [kən'veɪ'seɪʃn] — в ходе разговора  
 headache ['hedeɪk] — головная боль

A man went into the country one Sunday for a walk. He carried his overcoat on his arm, but finding it burdensome he



hanging it on a fence. Taking a card from his pocket he wrote:  
"Don't touch this coat: infected with small-pox," and went away.  
He came back two hours later, and found the card only,  
upon which was written: "Thanks for the coat. I've had the  
small-pox."

burdensome ['bæ:dnsəm] — обременительный  
infected with small-pox — заражено оспой

43

Country doctor (to his driver): It doesn't matter at what  
speed you go, Charles. I have the village constable in bed  
with rheumatism.

constable ['kɒnstəbl] — полицейский

44

Doctor (to his rich patient): You are all run down. I suggest  
that you lay off golf for a while and get a good rest at your  
office.

run down — 3д. изнуренный, истощенный  
to lay off — разг. забросить, отложить

45

Pete runs into his friend Andy who is just leaving the chemist's  
shop.

Pete: Hello, old boy. What's the matter with you?

Andy: What do you mean? I'm all right.

Pete: How's that? You're coming from the chemist's, it means  
you're ill.

Andy: I see! So if tomorrow you see me coming from the  
cemetery, you will be sure I'm dead.

to run into — столкнуться с  
the chemist's ['kɛmɪsts] shop — аптека  
cemetery ['semitri] — кладбище

46

Once the sovereign of an eastern country asked an Englishman  
about the manner in which doctors were paid in England and when  
he understood the system, he asked: "Is there any man in England  
that can afford to be ill? Now I'll inform you," said he, "how  
I manage my doctors. I have four doctors who take care of my  
health; a certain weekly salary is given to them, but the moment  
I am ill, the salary stops till I am well again. I need not tell you  
my illnesses are very short."



sovereign ['sɒvrɪn] — монарх  
salary ['sæləri] — жалование

47

"Doctor, I want you to look after my office, while I am on my vacation."

"But I've just graduated, doctor. I've had no experience."

"That's all right, my boy. My practice is strictly fashionable. Tell the men to play golf and send the lady patients off to Europe."

to look after my office — зд. обслуживать моих пациентов

My practice is strictly fashionable ['fæʃnəbl] — У меня пациенты только из высшего общества

48

"Doctor," she said loudly, entering the room, "I want you to say frankly what's wrong with me."

He looked at her from head to foot.

"Madam," he said at last. "I've just three things to tell you. First, your weight wants reducing by nearly fifty pounds. Second, your beauty would be improved if you used about one tenth as much rouge and lipstick. And third, I am an artist. The doctor lives on the next floor."

from head to foot — с головы до ног

your weight wants reducing by — вам следует похудеть на

about one tenth as much — раз в десять меньше

rouge [ru:ʒ] — румяна

lipstick — губная помада

49

"Of course," said the lady to the chemist, "it may be perfectly harmless, just as you say, but I am afraid to take it."

"My dear madam," interrupted the man, "I'm sure that you needn't be frightened. It's harmless..."

"I know; but I read in one magazine that lots of people had acquired the drink and drug habits through using such remedies, and..."

"Impossible in this case," was the answer.

"Will you give me your word of honour that there is no alcohol in it?"

"I'll gladly give you my word of honour," answered the chemist.

"Then I'll take it."

After which he wrapped up the porous plaster for her.



perfectly harmless — абсолютно безвредный  
 to acquire [ə'kwaiə] the drink and drug habits — приистраститься к спиртному и  
 наркотикам  
 remedy — лекарство, средство  
 word of honour ['ɒnə] — честное слово  
 porous plaster ['pɔːrəs'plɑːstə] — пористый пластырь

50

"The next, please," said the nurse.

The next patient, a middle-aged man, entered the consulting-room. The doctor was sitting behind his desk and smoking. As soon as the patient saw the cigar in the doctor's mouth, he turned round, and left the room without a word. The doctor was speechless for a moment, then he had the man called back.

"Why did you run away?" he asked in surprise.

"Well, you see," said the man pointing to the cigar in the doctor's hand, "how can I trust my health to a person who does not take care of his own?" And with these words he left forever.

nurse [nɜːs] — медсестра

consulting-room — врачебный кабинет

was speechless — эд. не мог вымолвить ни слова

had the man called back — попросил, чтобы человека вернули

forever — навсегда





First medical student: I certainly performed my last operation in the nick of time.

Second medical student: In the nick of time? Do you mean that the patient would have died without it?

First medical student: Oh no. If I had not done it on that very day, the patient would have recovered on the next without any operation.

in the nick of time — как раз вовремя  
to recover [rɪ'kʌvə] — выздороветь

## 52

Once an old gentleman went to see a doctor. The doctor examined him and said:

"Medicine won't help you. You must have a complete rest. Go to a quiet country place for a month, go to bed early, drink milk, walk a lot, and smoke just one cigar a day."

"Thank you very much," said the old gentleman. "I shall do everything you say."

A month later the gentleman came to the doctor again.

"How do you do!" said the doctor. "I am very glad to see you. You look much younger."

"Oh, doctor," said the gentleman, "I feel quite well now. I had a good rest. I went to bed early. I drank a lot of milk. I walked a lot. Your advice certainly helped me. But you told me to smoke one cigar a day, and that one cigar a day almost killed me at first. It's no joke to start smoking at my age."

## 53

A man rushed into a shop and asked the chemist what to do to stop hiccup. His answer was a slap in the face. Shocked and angry, he demanded an explanation.

"Well," said the chemist, "you haven't any hiccups now, have you?"

"No," the man answered, "but my wife out in the car still has them."

hiccup(s) ['hɪkʌp] — икота

His answer was a slap in the face. — Ответом ему была пощечина.

## 54

A member of a military band came to a doctor with a throatache. "Let me see your throat. Oh, that's not so bad. You'll be all right in a day or two. I think you had better rest a little



for a week," and with these words the doctor gave the man sick leave.

A week later the doctor met the bandsman in the street.

"How is your throat?" he asked.

"It's quite well, sir," was the reply.

"That's good," said the doctor. "You can go back to your duty now. By the way, what instrument do you play in the band?"

"The small drum, sir," said the bandsman.

military band ['militəri'bænd] — военный оркестр

sick-leave — больничный лист

throatache ['θrouteɪk] — заболевание горла

the small drum — малый барабан (в духовом оркестре)

55

The patient was very sick. "Doctor," he said, "cure me and I'll give you \$ 50 for the new hospital."

It was very difficult but the doctor managed to cure the man. Some months later he ran into the man in the street and asked him:

"How are you?"

"Very well," was the answer.

"I want to speak to you about the money for the new hospital," said the doctor.

"Money for the new hospital?"

"You promised," explained the doctor, "if you got well."

"Did I?" said the man. "Now you can see how really sick I was."

56

An invitation to dinner had been sent to the new doctor. In reply the hostess received an absolutely illegible letter.

"I must know if he accepts or declines," she said.

"If I were you," suggested her husband, "I should take it to the chemist. A pharmacist can always read a doctor's letters, however badly written."

The chemist looked at the sheet of paper which she had handed him, and without waiting for her explanation went away and returned a few minutes later with a bottle which he handed over the counter.

"There you are, madam!" he said. "That will be 50 cents."

hostess ['houstɪs] — хозяйка (принимающая гостей)

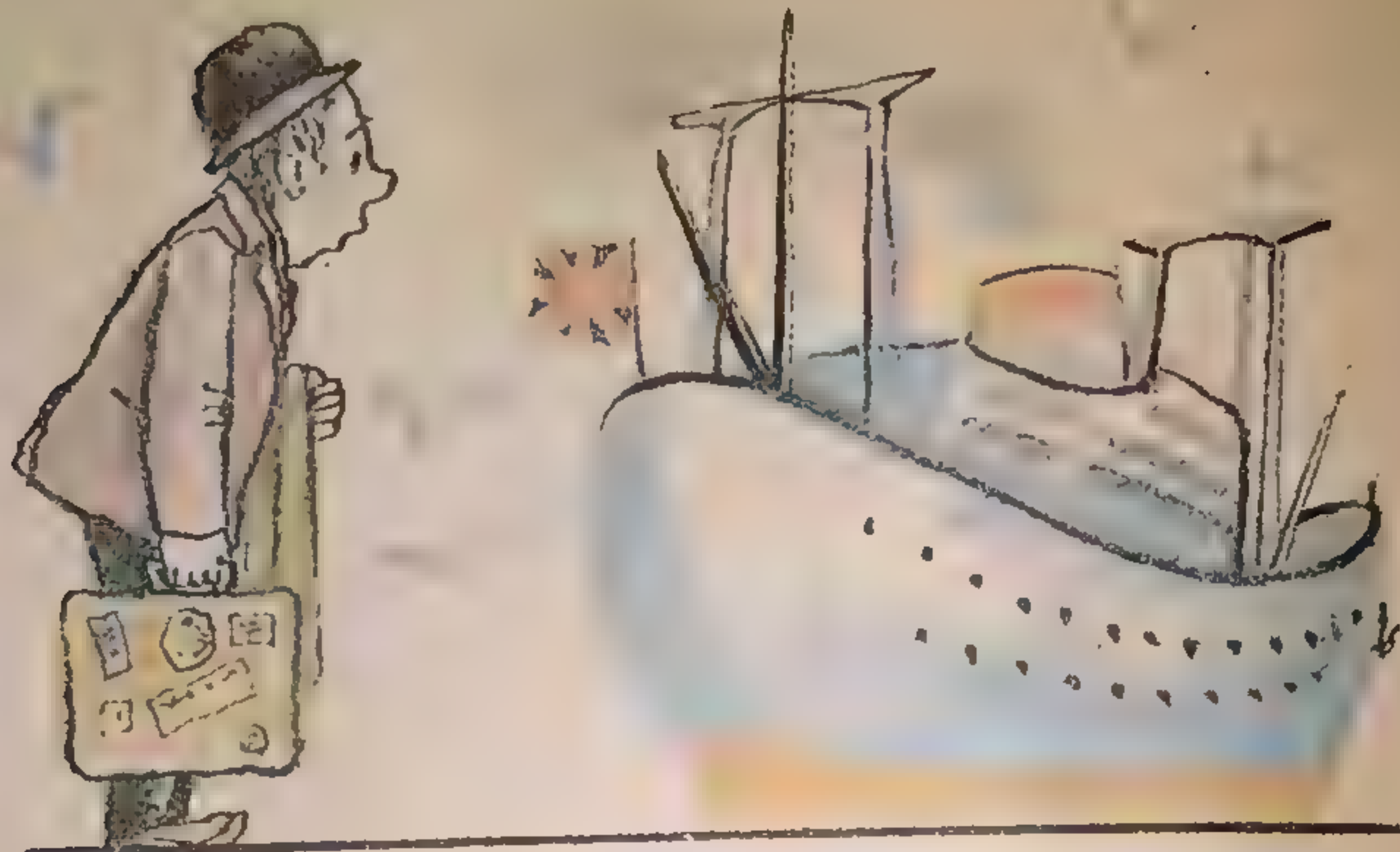
illegible [ɪ'ledʒɪbl] — неразборчивый

to decline [dɪ'klaɪn] — отказаться

pharmacist ['fɑ:məsɪst] — фармацевт



# TRAFFIC, TOURISTS AND TRAVELLING



1

Mr. Grey: To my mind all the drivers think that the pedestrians are beneath them.

Mr. Brown: Well, they often are.

pedestrian [pɪˈdestriən] — пешеход

beneath [bɪˈniːθ] — под, ниже (в прям. и перен. смыслах)

2

Traffic officer: Why are you driving so fast?

Motorist: Well, I am nearly out of petrol and want to get to the garage before I use it all up.

traffic officer [ˈtræfɪk ˈɒfɪsə] — автоинспектор

motorist [ˈmɒtərɪst] — автомобилист

I'm nearly out of petrol [ˈpetrəl] — у меня кончается бензин

garage [ˈɡærɑːʒ] — гараж

3

Mrs. Greene: The buses are always so crowded.

Mrs. White: Yes, indeed! Sometimes even men have no seats.

4

Freddie was a very polite boy. One day he was sitting on his father's knees in a tram. Suddenly an old woman got on. The



little boy jumped down at once, took off his cap and said: "May I offer you my seat?"

to offer ['ɔfə] — предложить



5

A woman motorist was called upon to stop.

"What do you want with me?" she asked the traffic officer.

"You were travelling at seventy miles an hour," answered he.

"Seventy miles an hour? Why, I haven't been out an hour," said the woman, and off she was, leaving the policeman in great confusion.

mile — миля

I haven't been out an hour — еще нет часа, как я выехала

6

An old woman arrived in London. When she came to one of the hotels, she asked for a room. Soon she was shown into a very small room. There was nothing in it.

"I don't like this room," said she, "I'll not have it."



"We don't ask you to sleep here," said a boy in buttons.  
"This is not a bedroom. This is the lift."

boy in buttons — мальчик-посыльный (в гостинице)

7

A man went up to a taxi and asked the driver, "What's the fare from here to the Bank of England?"

"One shilling, sir. Just step in," was the reply.

"Thanks. I only want to know how much I'll save by walking."

fare [fɛə] — плата за проезд

step in — зд. садитесь

to save — зд. сэкономить

8

Policeman: How did the accident happen?

Motorist: My wife fell asleep in the back seat.

9

Friend: What happened to your face?

Motorist: Talked a little with a fellow about driving.

Friend: Why didn't you call a policeman?

Motorist: He was a policeman.

10

Hotel keeper: Here are a few views of the hotel.

Traveller: Thanks a lot, but I have my own views of your hotel.

view [vjʊ:] — 1. открытка с видом;

2. взгляд, мнение

11

"What would your wife say if you bought a new car?"

"Look out for that traffic light! Be careful now! Don't hit that truck! Why don't you watch where you're going? Will you never learn?' and a lot of other things."

12

"How did your father know we went out in the car yesterday?"

"Quite simple. Remember that stout gentleman we ran into? That was Father."

stout [staut] — полный



A traveller whose name was Mr. Brown was a very light sleeper. One night he stopped at a small hotel and after some time he fell into a sound sleep. Suddenly he heard a loud knock at the door and nervously sat up in bed.

"What's the matter?" he asked.

"Package downstairs for you, sir," said the boy-servant.

"Well, let it stay there; it can wait till morning."

The boy went away and for a very long time the traveller could not fall asleep. When at last he fell asleep, he heard a knock again.

"Well, what's up now?" asked he angrily.

"It's not for you, that package, Mr. Brown," said the boy this time.

light sleeper — эд. человек, с трудом засыпающий  
to fall into a sound sleep — крепко заснуть  
package ['pækɪdʒ] — посылка

Conductor: Do you mind, sir, if I put your bag out of the way? People who come in are falling over it.

Passenger: You leave it where it is. If nobody falls over it, I'll forget it's there.





## 15

Two men met at a hotel in Brighton.  
 First visitor: I seem to recognize you, but I can't quite remember where I saw you before.  
 Second visitor: Under your car, when you ran me over last Sunday.

## 16

"What did the sick man on board the ship say when you asked if you could bring him anything else?"  
 "He said: 'Bring me an island.'"

## 17

The train was approaching Bristol.  
 "Sir," a passenger asked his neighbour, "do you know Bristol well?"  
 "Yes, sir. Very well. I come here at least twice a year."  
 "Well, what hotel would you recommend?"  
 "Try the Smith hotel."  
 "Do you always stop there?"  
 "No, but I've stopped at all the others."

Bristol ['brɪstl] — г. Бристоль

## 18

A very fat lady was trying to enter a bus. A passenger who was waiting to get off began to laugh at her futile efforts.  
 "If you were half a gentleman you would help me," said she angrily.  
 The passenger answered: "If you were half a lady, you wouldn't need my help."

futile ['fju:taɪl] effort — тщетная попытка

## 19

Two Americans came to Scotland for the first time.  
 He: I think this scenery is wonderful.  
 She: I don't know. Take away the mountains and the lake and it's just like anywhere else.

scenery ['sɪnəri] — пейзаж

## 20

A traveller was preparing for his sea voyage. He asked his more experienced friend:



"What food shall I eat on board?"  
"The cheapest," was the answer.

voyage ['vɔɪdʒ] — путешествие

## 21

A man offered his seat to a woman in a crowded bus. She fainted at such politeness. When she came round, she thanked him. Then he fainted.

to faint [feɪnt] — упасть в обморок  
to come round — прийти в себя

## 22

The tram was crowded. A young man trod upon the feet of an old gentleman and showed no intention of moving away. The old man tapped in a fatherly way on the young one's shoulder and asked politely:

"Tell me, please, how old you are."

"Well, I'm twenty-three," answered the young man rather surprised.

"Then, to my mind, you're old enough to stand on your own feet."

to tread [tred] (trod, trodden) — наступить  
to tap — похлопать

## 23

A man came up to a boy in a New York street and asked: "Say, Jack, can you tell me where the Empire State Building is?"

"And how do you know my name is Jack?" asked the boy.

"I guessed it."

"Are you good at guessing, sir?"

"Fine."

"Then guess where the Empire State Building is," said the boy.

## 24

A country lad was going by train for the first time in his life. The train was approaching a tunnel. One of the passengers wanted to frighten the lad and said:

"Now we're going to hell."

"Never mind," answered the lad calmly. "I've got a return ticket."

lad — парень

hell — ад

return ticket — обратный билет



It was a dark night. A traveller was riding a horse. At last he came to a cross-road and did not know which way to turn. There was a pole in front of him with a board on top of it. Something was written on the board. He looked for a match and found only one in the match-box. Then he climbed to the top of the pole, lit his only match and read: "Wet paint."

cross-road ['krɒsgrouɪd] — перекресток

pole — столб

Wet paint. — Осторожно, окрашено.

Stout lady: This morning three men jumped up and offered me their seats in the bus.

Slim one: Did you take them all, dear?

Two ladies who were friends got on a bus. There was standing room only. One of them looked around and said to the other:

"I wish that handsome gentleman would give me his seat."

At once six men got up.

room — зд. место, пространство

"I used to be afraid to go by car with John, but I am no longer afraid now."

"Does he drive more carefully?"

"Oh, no, he doesn't, but since he has joined the Red Cross, he knows where all the hospitals are."

An absent-minded professor had left his place in the sleeper to drink some water, but on his way back he could not find it. It was about midnight and the train was speeding through the country.

"Don't you remember the number of your seat?" asked the conductor.

"I am afraid not," was the answer.

"Well, haven't you any idea where it was?"

"Why, yes, to be sure," the professor brightened. "I noticed one time this afternoon that the window looked out upon a little lake."



sleeper ['slɪpə] — эд. спальный вагон  
to speed — быстро ехать  
to brighten ['braɪtən] — просиять

30

A traveller was standing at the desk in the lobby of a Washington hotel. He was in a hurry. He had only twenty minutes to pay the bill and reach the station. Suddenly he remembered that he had forgotten something.

He called the bell-boy and said: "Run up to Room 48 and see whether I left a box on the table. Be quick. I am in a hurry."

The boy ran up the stairs. Five minutes passed, and the gentleman was walking up and down impatiently. At last the boy came back.

"Yes, sir," he said. "Yes, sir, you left it there. It's on the table."

lobby — вестибюль

bell-boy — посыльный

31

Nick and his father went to see his grandmother. In the train Nick put his head out of the window every minute.

His father said: "Nick, keep quiet! Don't put your head out of the window," but Nick did not obey him.

Then his father took Nick's cap quietly, hid it behind his back and said: "You see, your cap has flown."

Nick began to cry. His father said: "Whistle and your cap will come back."

Nick whistled and his father put the cap on Nick's head. Nick was happy. He took his father's cap quickly and threw it out of the window.

"Now it's your turn to whistle, Dad," said he gaily.

to whistle ['wɪsl] — свистеть

32

A traveller, on arriving at the railway station, asked a local man: "Well, my friend, could you tell me how many hotels you have here?"

"We have two," the man answered.

"Now which of the two could you recommend?"

The local man thought for some time and then said: "Frankly speaking it's like this, sir. Whichever one you go to, you'll be sorry you didn't go to the other."

whichever [wɪtʃ'evə] — какой бы ни



Traveller: Does the water always come through the roof like that?

Hotel keeper: No, sir, not always, only when it rains.



Jim works as a cabin-boy on a small ship. One morning he brings in breakfast for the captain and says: "May I ask you something, sir?"

"Of course you may," says the captain who sees that the boy looks very frightened. "What is it?"

"Is a thing lost if you know where it is?" says Jim.

"Of course it isn't," says the captain.

"Then your coffee-pot isn't lost, sir, because I know where it is," says Jim with a smile.



"Where is it?" asks the captain.  
"At the bottom of the sea," says Jim.

cabin-boy — юнга  
bottom — дно

35

The bus was crowded that morning. A passenger sitting next to the window suddenly closed his eyes and turned his head aside. The man next to him asked:

"Are you ill? Can I do anything for you?"

"I'm quite well," the other answered. "I just hate to see old ladies standing."

I... hate to see — Мне очень неприятно видеть

36

A motorist who was going by car through the country saw, walking in front of him, a man followed by a dog. As the car was near them the dog suddenly started to cross the road. The poor animal was hit by the car and killed.

The motorist stopped his car and approached the man. "I am very sorry that this has happened," he said. "Will ten dollars be enough?"

"Oh, yes," said the man, "ten dollars will be quite enough!"

He put the money in his pocket and as the car disappeared in the distance, he looked down at the dead animal and said: "I wonder whose dog it was."

37

Mrs. Dumbdora asked a policeman how to get to a certain street in Chicago and he replied: "Take bus number 412."

Later in the day he found her still standing in the same spot.

"What happened?" he asked. "Haven't you got your bus yet?"

"It's all right," was the cheerful reply. "This one coming is number 400, so it will only be twelve buses from now."

cheerful ['tʃiəfʊl] — жизнерадостный

38

A very stout lady tackled a bus inspector at a busy stopping place.

"I want to report the conductor of that bus that's just gone," she cried. "He's been rude."

"How?" asked the bus inspector.

"Why," went on the lady, "he was telling the people the



bus was full up and when I got off, he said: 'Room for three inside.'"

to tackle — зб. наброситься на  
to report smb — жаловаться на кого-л.  
rude [ru:d] — грубый, оскорбительный

39

A railroad ticket-collector who had retired after forty-five years of service was telling his neighbours about the bright side of his work. He enjoyed everything: his fellow-workers, and the work itself. There had been only one unpleasant thing in it. And when his neighbours asked him what he didn't like he answered: "Oh, the passengers, certainly the passengers!"

ticket-collector — контролер  
to retire [ri'taɪə] — выйти на пенсию  
the bright side — зб. достоинства, преимущества  
fellow-worker — сослуживец

40

"Yes," said the captain of the steamboat to the nervous passenger. "I've been running boats on this river so long that I know where every snag and sand bar is."

Just then the boat stuck a snag with a great force.

"There!" said the captain. "That's one of them now."

steamboat — пароход  
snag — коряга (на дне реки)  
sand bar — мель

41

"And did you enjoy your trip to Switzerland?"

"Yes, very much. They have such attractive postcards all through the country."

Switzerland [ˈswɪtsələnd] — Швейцария

42

Old woman (on the railway): Please, sir, will you help me to get out at the next station?

Man: Why, certainly, ma'am.

Old woman: You see, sir, it's this way. Being rather stout, I have to turn around and get out backwards, and the porters always think I am getting in, so they push me back into



the carriage and say, "Hurry up, ma'am!" I've passed four stations that way already.

porter — амер. проводник

carriage ['kærɪdʒ] — (железнодорожный) вагон

43

"And so," said the magistrate, "this is the fifth person you've knocked down this year?"

"Pardon me," said the girl motorist with much dignity, "the fourth. One of them was the same person."

magistrate ['mædʒɪstreɪt] — судья

to knock down — сбить

dignity ['dɪɡnɪti] — достоинство

44

A woman hired a taxi. It began to race along, missing trams, cars, policemen, etc. The woman was frightened, and said to the taxi-driver:

"Please be careful. This is the first time I ever rode in a taxi."

"That's all right," answered the taxi-driver. "It's the first time I ever drove one."

to hire ['haɪə] — нанять

45

A man was downtown with his wife and four children, when he decided to take a taxi home. Coming up to the driver he asked:

"How much will you take to drive us to Bronx?"

"Two dollars for you and your wife," answered the driver.

"I'll take the four kids along for nothing."

Then the man turned to the children and said: "Jump in, kids, and have a nice ride home. Mummy and I will take the subway."

downtown — зд. в центре города

Bronx — Бронкс (район Нью-Йорка)

subway ['sʌbweɪ] — амер. метро, «подземка»

46

In a train a talkative passenger addressed a lady who was in the same compartment: "Have you any family, madam?"

"Yes, sir. One son."

"Indeed. Does he smoke?"



"No, he doesn't."

"So much the better. Tobacco is a poison. Does he drink?"

"He doesn't."

"That's very nice. Does he belong to a club?"

"Oh, no. He doesn't."

"Then I congratulate you. Your son must be a very good young man. How old is he?"

"Four months today."

family — *зд. дети*

so much the better — *тем лучше*

poison [*'pɔɪzn*] — *яд, отрав*

47

The Florida beach and the blue sky looked inviting to the tourist from the North. He was going to swim, so he asked his guide:

"You're sure there are no alligators here, aren't you?"

"No, no," replied the guide smiling. "There are no alligators here."

The tourist was no longer afraid. He stepped into the water and was about to swim. Then he shouted to the guide again:

"What makes you sure there aren't any alligators?"

"They've got too much sense," answered the guide. "They are afraid of the sharks."

guide [*gaɪd*] — *гид, проводник*

they've got too much sense [*sens*] — *они для этого слишком умны*

shark [*ʃɑ:k*] — *акула*

48

Three ladies entered a railway carriage, took seats in their compartment and began to talk. One said it was her birthday and she was meeting her husband in town to celebrate.

"I'm 41 today," she said.

The second lady said: "Oh, I'm only 37," and turning to the third asked: "How old are you?"

"Well," was the reply, "according to the present reckoning I'm not born yet."

according to the present reckoning — *зд. в соответствии с таким подсчетом лет*

49

An old lady approached the trainmaster at the railway station and asked:

"What time does the train for the North go by?"



"3:30," said the trainmaster.

A few minutes later she asked:

"What time does the train for the South go by?"

"4:17," was the answer.

A third time she approached and demanded:

"What time does the train for the East pass by?"

"Tonight at 8," he replied.

Once more she approached the trainmaster.

"And what time does the train for the West go by?"

"There won't be another train for the West until tomorrow evening," said the trainmaster wearily.

The old lady's face brightened.

"Come along, Ben," she cried to the little boy on the platform.

"It's safe to cross the tracks now."

trainmaster — амер. жд начальник станции

50

There had been an automobile accident and the policeman was busy taking notes from the drivers of both cars.

One of the drivers was furious.

"Look here, officer," he said angrily. "The other driver ran into me and now you tell me I was to blame."

"And you certainly were," said the policeman.

"But why, officer?"

"Because his father is the mayor and his brother is the chief-of-police."

furious ['fjuəriəs] — в ярости

I was to blame — Я виноват

mayor [меэ] — мэр

chief-of-police — начальник полиции

51

A speed-cop stopped a car and pulled out his book.

"I clocked you at fifty-six, Mister," he said.

The lady in the back seat started shouting: "Just you give him a ticket, officer! Serves him right! I've told him for years that he is a dangerous driver!"

"Your wife?" asked the cop and when the driver nodded, he closed his book and added: "Drive on, brother."

speed-cop — амер. разг. автоинспектор

to clock — жд. отметить скорость

ticket — амер. разг. повестка в суд за нарушение правил уличного движения

Serves him right! — Так ему и надо!



Two ladies sitting in the same compartment of a train had a dispute about the window. One wanted it up and the other wanted it down. In the end the guard was called to settle the dispute.

One of the women said: "If the window is up, I'll be suffocated."

"If the window is down, I'll catch my death of cold," said the other woman.

The guard did not know what to do.

"I think," said the man sitting between the excited women, "this is what we ought to do. First have the window up to suffocate number 1, then have it down and kill number 2. After that we'll get some peace."

the window is up (down) — окно закрыто (открыто)

guard — ж.-д. кондуктор

to be suffocated ['sʌfəkeɪtɪd] — задохнуться

to catch one's death of cold — з-д. замерзнуть насмерть

It was Sunday. The trains were overcrowded. A man was looking for a seat in a carriage. Suddenly he saw a vacant seat and a well-dressed man sitting beside it.

"Is this seat vacant?" asked the man.

"No, it is not," was the answer. "It is occupied by my friend, he will soon come. He has gone to buy cigarettes."

Ten minutes passed.

"Your friend will miss the train."

"Yes," replied the other nervously.

The train started but nobody came.

"Your friend is late," said the man, and with these words he took the bag and threw it out of the window.

The well-dressed man tried to catch the bag, but it was too late. It was his own bag and he had occupied the second seat because he wanted to be comfortable.

overcrowded [ˌoʊvə'kraʊdɪd] — переполненный

vacant ['veɪkənt] — свободный

occupied [ˈɒkjupaɪd] — занятый



# ART, MUSIC, LITERATURE, THEATRE, CINEMA AND CIRCUS



1

Man: Is your father's work difficult?

Little girl: Oh, no! He puts his head into the lion's mouth in the evening, and from the early morning he doesn't do anything.

2

Mrs. Newrich: Do you think that the portrait will be really beautiful?

Artist: Of course. You won't know yourself.

You won't know yourself. — Вы сами себя не узнаете.

3

A very rich man asked a famous artist to draw something for him in his album. The artist did so, and asked for one hundred dollars.

"Why!" cried the rich man. "It took you only five minutes to do it!"

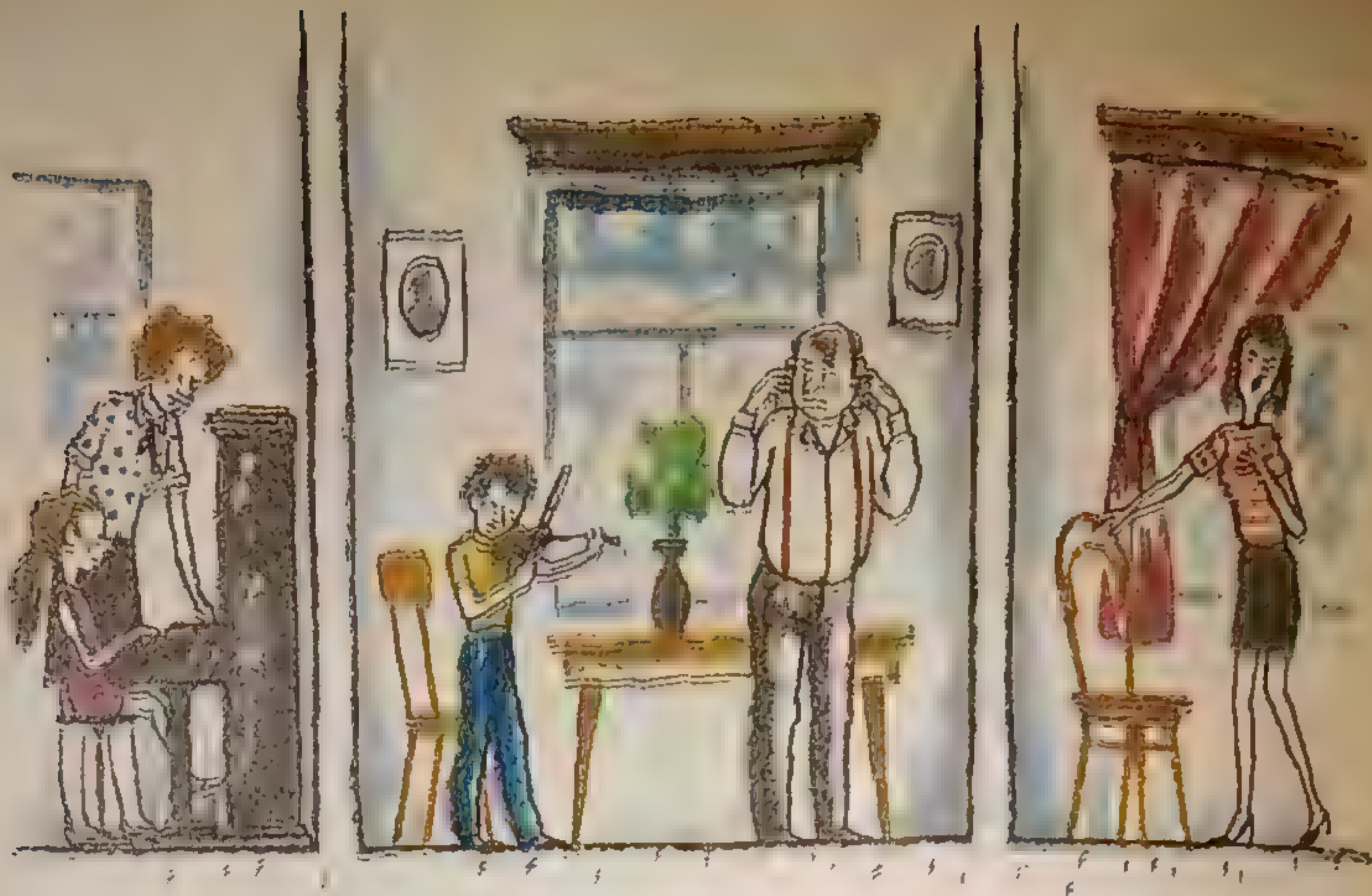
"Yes," answered the artist. "But it took me twenty years to learn how to do it in five minutes."

album ['ælbəm] — альбом

4

Mr. Smith: Nobody is idle in my family. My wife gives piano lessons, my son learns to play the violin and my daughter takes singing lessons.





His friend: And what do *you* do?  
Mr. Smith: Well, I suffer in silence.

idle ['aɪdl] — праздный  
violin [ˌvaɪə'lɪn] — скрипка

5

Young artist: So you think it's the worst picture I have ever painted, don't you?  
His friend: No, I don't. I don't think anything of the kind, for I'm sure it's the worst picture anybody in the world has ever painted.

I don't think anything of the kind — Я не думаю ничего подобного

6

A man was late for a concert. He took his place and asked an old woman:  
"What are they playing?"  
"Chaikovsky's Fifth Symphony."  
"Is it fifth already? How late I am."

7

"It must be terrible for an opera singer to realize that he can never sing again."  
"Certainly. But it's much more terrible if he doesn't realize it."

to realize ['rɪəlaɪz] — осознавать



The circus is full of people. A beautiful young girl is standing with a cake in her mouth. A big lion comes up to her and takes the cake.

A well-dressed man asks the people: "Who is going to do the same thing? You'll get 1000 dollars!" he says. Nobody wants to. At last somebody says: "I'll do it. Only take the lion away."

## 9

She: I hear you're a great artist.

He: I hope to be. I've only just started.

She: What are you doing?

He: Well, I'm living in a studio and growing whiskers.

studio ['stju:diu] - мастерская художника

whiskers ['wiskəz] - бакенбарды

## 10

Nelly was trying to sing and her brother James was trying to read. Finally he decided to give her a hint that her singing was annoying him. Looking up from the book he said:

"I think you might be able to make a living singing."

She was pleased and said: "That's very flattering."

"Not at all," was his reply. "People might be willing to pay you to stop singing."

This was followed by silence.

to give a hint — намекнуть

to annoy [ə'noɪ] — раздражать

to make a living — зарабатывать на жизнь

## 11

"I don't like this picture. Why did they hang it?"

"Perhaps they couldn't find the artist."

## 12

"They tell me you love music."

"Yes, but never mind; keep on playing."

## 13

Little boy: Father, when I grow up, may I be an artist?

Father: It all depends, my son.

Little boy: What does it depend on?

Father: On how long you can be without food.



to depend on — зависеть от  
It all depends — Поживем — увидим

14

Soprano: Did you notice how my voice filled the hall last night?

Contralto: Yes, dear. In fact, I noticed several people leaving to make room for it.

to make room (for) — уступить место





Father: I don't know whether to buy my daughter a piano or a violin.

Uncle: Oh, buy her a violin. You can kick a violin in bits when you're fed up, but you can't a piano.

to kick in bits — разбить вдребезги

"Why do you prefer Wagner?"

"I prefer him because he composes about the only kind of music one can hear above the conversation."

Wagner — Вагнер, немецкий композитор

conversation [ˌkɒnvə'seɪʃən] — беседа, разговор

"Your colours are beautiful," said a deeply rouged lady to a portrait painter.

"Yes," he said, "we buy them at the same shop."

deeply rouged [ruːʒd] lady — сильно наумяненная женщина

portrait ['pɔːtrɪt] painter — художник-портретист

Critic: The picture of this horse is good, but where is the wagon?

Artist: Oh, the horse will draw it.

wagon ['wæɡən] — повозка

to draw — 1. тащить;

2. рисовать

Artist: This is my latest picture. It's called "Builders at Work". It's very realistic.

Friend: But they really aren't at work?

Artist: Of course not — that's the realism.

"I can't think why they make so much fuss about Miss Trotwood's voice. Miss Jones has a much richer voice."



"You are right but don't forget that Miss Trotwood has a much richer father."

they make so much fuss about — эд. все так хвалят

21

First artist: Well, old man, how's business?

Second artist: Oh, splendid. Got a commission this morning from a millionaire. Wants his children painted very badly.

First artist: Well, my boy, you are the very man for this job.

commission — заказ

to want smth badly — очень хотеть чего-л.

the very man — именно тот, кто нужен

22

"I sent a copy of my new book to the editor of 'The Broadway Review' and he wrote me back such a nice letter."

"What did he say?"

"Well, he said he would lose no time in reading it."

editor ['editə] — редактор

to lose time — терять время, тратить время

to lose no time in doing smth — взяться за что-л. не откладывая

23

First actress (*behind the scenes*): Did you hear the way the public wept during my death scene?

Second actress: Yes. It must have been because they realized it was only acted.

behind the scenes [sɪnz] — за сценой

to weep (wept, wept) — плакать

it was only acted — это всего лишь в пьесе

24

Clarence: Pa, what is a rare volume?

Father: It's a book that comes back after you've loaned it.

rare volume ['reə 'vɒljum] — редкая книга

to loan [ləʊn] — одалживать

25

Bill: My wife used to play the piano a lot, but since the children came she doesn't have time.

Friend: Children are a comfort, aren't they?



since the children came — с тех пор как родились дети  
comfort ['kʌmfət] — утешение

26

He (*at the movies*): Can you see all right?  
She: Yes.

He: Is there a draught on you?

She: No.

He: Is your seat comfortable?

She: Yes.

He: Will you change places with me?

movies ['mu:vɪz] — разг. кино

draught [drɔ:ft] — сквозняк

27

Customer: I would like a book, please.

Bookseller: Something light?

Customer: That doesn't matter. I have my car with me.

28

The poet: I can't find that sonnet anywhere. Emily must have thrown it into the fire.

His wife: Don't be absurd, Peter. The child can't read.

sonnet ['sɒnɪt] — сонет (стихотворная форма)

Don't be absurd [əb'sɜ:d] — Не говори глупостей

29

Claire: What is the matter with the leading actress?

Maudie: She's only got nine bouquets tonight.

Claire: Good heavens, isn't that enough?

Maudie: Certainly not. She paid for ten.

the leading actress — исполнительница главной роли, премьерша

bouquet ['bʊkeɪ] — букет

good heavens ['hevnz] — боже мой

30

Next door neighbour's little boy: Father says could you lend him your violin for tonight?

Man: Are you having a party?

Boy: Oh, no. Father only wants to go to bed.



"What are you doing now?"

"I've found a new circus turn — the friendship of a lion and a goat."

"But aren't there quarrels between them?"

"Oh, yes, they have their little quarrels, but then we buy a new goat."

What are you doing now? — эд. Над чем вы сейчас работаете?

circus turn — цирковой номер

quarrel ['kwɔrəl] — ссора

Editor: The style of writing that you do must be very hard work.

Author: Well, it is; but what made you think of it?

Editor: It made us tired to read it.

Johnson: Mrs. Greene wants to go on the stage.

Jackson: Well, Mr. Greene is rich enough to build a theatre for her.

Johnson: Yes, and to hire the audience.

to go on the stage — стать актрисой

to hire ['haɪə] — нанять

audience ['ɔ:djəns] — зрители

A very dull play was talked of; and somebody tried to defend it saying: "It was not hissed."

"True," said another; "no one can hiss and yawn at the same time."

to hiss [hɪs] — освистывать

to yawn [jɔ:n] — зевать

"What shall I do," said an actor to another, "to fill the house at my benefit?"

"Invite your creditors," was the reply.

to fill the house — эд. обеспечить полный сбор

benefit ['benɪfɪt] — бенефис



Two theatre critics met in the foyer during the interval. One of them was yawning.  
 "Yes," said the other. "That's just what I was going to say."

foyer ['fɔɪeɪ] — фойе

"Well," said the father to little Tommy, "how did you like the circus?"

"It was good," Tommy replied, "but I don't think much of the man who threw knives at the woman."

"Why?"

"He missed her every time."

to miss — не попадать

I don't think much of — я не очень то высокого мнения о

"Did you visit the art galleries when you were in New York?"

"We didn't need to. Our daughter paints."

"Applause is necessary for actors, for it gives them confidence," said one of her admirers to Mrs. Siddons, the great English actress.

"It gives us more than confidence," replied the actress, "for it gives us breath."

applause [ə'plɔ:z] — аплодисменты

confidence ['kɒnfɪdəns] — уверенность

breath [breθ] — зδ. передышка

Father took his little daughter to the movies. He occupied a seat in the middle of the theatre, while the young lady went down to the front row to join some other children. The newsreel was showing a forest fire, which frightened the little girl and she came back to take a seat beside her father.

"What's the matter?" he asked. "Did the fire frighten you?"

"Oh, no," she replied. "The smoke got into my eyes."

row [rou] — ряд

newsreel ['nju:zri:l] — киножурнал



"The most terrible experience is when one has to read one's play before a critical audience," said a playwright to an old actor.

"I know a more terrible one," said the actor. "It's when one has to sit and hear it from the first act to the last."

experience [iks'piəriəns] — эд. переживание, ощущение

playwright ['pleɪraɪt] — драматург

critical — эд. критически настроенный

"A real man of genius is above all modest," said a young poet. "Modesty is a true sign of greatness. For instance, have you ever heard me praise myself?"

man of genius ['dʒiːnjəs] — гений

modest ['mɒdɪst] — скромный

to praise [preɪz] — хвалить, восхвалять

The conjurer arranged a new stage trick. On the day before its introduction he asked his little son to help him.

"When I ask for a boy to come on the stage, you must come at once. But you mustn't do anything or say anything that will make the audience think that you know me."

The boy said he understood, and when the conjurer asked for help, he came quickly forward, and was invited on the stage. When this was done, the conjurer said:

"Look at this boy! He has never seen me before, have you, my boy?"

"No, Father," replied the boy.

conjurer ['kɒndʒərə] — фокусник

stage trick — фокус, трюк, номер

During the performance a man in the pit was much annoyed by a young couple next to him who kept on whispering.

"Excuse me," he said, "but I can't hear a word that is being said."

"I like that," exclaimed the talkative young man. "It's no business of yours, sir, what I'm telling my wife."

pit — партер

couple ['kʌpl] — пара, чета

It's no business of yours — Это не ваше дело



After a hot argument with the stage manager a film star cries in a petulant way:

"If you were my husband, I'd put poison in your tea."

"Madam," replied the stage manager with a most charming smile, "if I were your husband, I'd gladly drink it."

argument ['ɑ:gjʊmənt] — спор

stage manager — режиссер

petulant ['petjulənt] — зд. капризный, недовольный

poison ['pɔɪzn] — яд

Jack and Dick were watching a film on television. In one scene a man was riding madly towards the cliff.

"I bet you 10 pounds that he falls over the cliff," said Jack.

"Done," said Dick.

The man rode straight over the cliff. As Dick handed over his 10 pounds, Jack said:

"I feel a bit guilty about this. I've seen the film before."

"So have I," said Dick, "but I didn't think he'd be fool enough to make the same mistake twice."

madly — зд. на бешеной скорости

cliff — обрыв

I bet you 10 pounds — Бьюсь об заклад на 10 фунтов

Done — зд. Идет (Принимаю)

guilty ['gɪltɪ] — виноватый

A man walking by the village club heard the village choir rehearse a tune he could not recognize though it sounded familiar to him. When the rehearsal was over, he came up to one of the members of the choir and asked him:

"Who composed the song you have been rehearsing? It sounds familiar to me, but I can't recognize it."

"That's Beethoven," answered the man, "and no wonder you couldn't recognize it, for it's a song we have altered and improved."

choir ['kwaɪə] — хор

to rehearse [rɪ'hæ:s] — репетировать

rehearsal [rɪ'hæ:sl] — репетиция

tune [tju:n] — мелодия, мотив

no wonder — неудивительно, что

to alter ['ɔ:lteɪ] — переделывать

to improve [ɪm'pru:v] — улучшать, усовершенствовать





48

A young girl was to be starred in a Hollliwood thriller. There was a place in the script where she was to jump from a high mountain into the water. When the young actress was shown around the place, she ran to the producer and said:

"I won't jump. There is only a foot of water at the bottom of the hill!"

"That's all right," said the producer. "Do you think we want you to get drowned?"



to be starred — играть главную роль  
script — сценарий  
at the bottom — у подножия

49

Critic: Which are the two best novels of the year, Mr. X?  
Mr. X (*the novelist*): I'm sorry I can't tell for I've succeeded  
in publishing only one novel this year.

I've succeeded in — мне удалось

50

There was a wealthy man who was proud of his skill in  
landscape painting but he was a very bad artist. Once he  
invited several critics to look at his pictures. One of his visitors  
stopped in front of one of the pictures.

"Here's one you ought to call 'Home'," he said.

"Why?" asked the painter.

"Because there's no place like it," said the critic.

wealthy ['welθi] — богатый

skill — искусство

landscape ['lændskeɪp] — пейзаж

there's no place like it — намек на английскую пословицу There's no place  
like home — В гостях хорошо, а дома лучше

51

The orchestra had finished playing Wagner's "Pilgrim Chorus"  
and large Mrs. Fustle stepped up to the orchestra and said:

"Would you please play Wagner's 'Pilgrim Chorus?'"

"But," said the leader, "we've just finished playing it!"

"Oh," said the woman much disappointed. "I wish I'd known.  
It's my favourite number."

orchestra ['ɔ:kɪstrə] — оркестр

"Pilgrim Chorus" ['pɪlgrɪm 'kɔ:rəs] — «Хор пилигримов»

leader — эд. дирижер

52

Jones: Aren't your daughter's piano lessons costing you too  
much?

Brown: On the contrary. Thanks to them I could buy the house  
next door at half its worth.

On the contrary ['kɒntrəri]. — Напротив.

at half its worth — за полцены



H e: What did you hear in the opera yesterday?

S h e: All sorts of things. Smith is going bankrupt, Mrs. Brown had dyed hair, the Whites had a quarrel on Tuesday.

to go bankrupt ['bæŋkrəpt] — обанкротиться  
dyed [daɪd] — крашеный (о волосах)

M a n (to his neighbour): I wish you would sell your dog. Yesterday my daughter had to stop her singing because your dog was whining all the time.

N e i g h b o u r: I'm sorry. But your daughter began it.

to whine — скулить



"Did that new play have a happy ending?"  
"Sure, everybody was glad it was over."

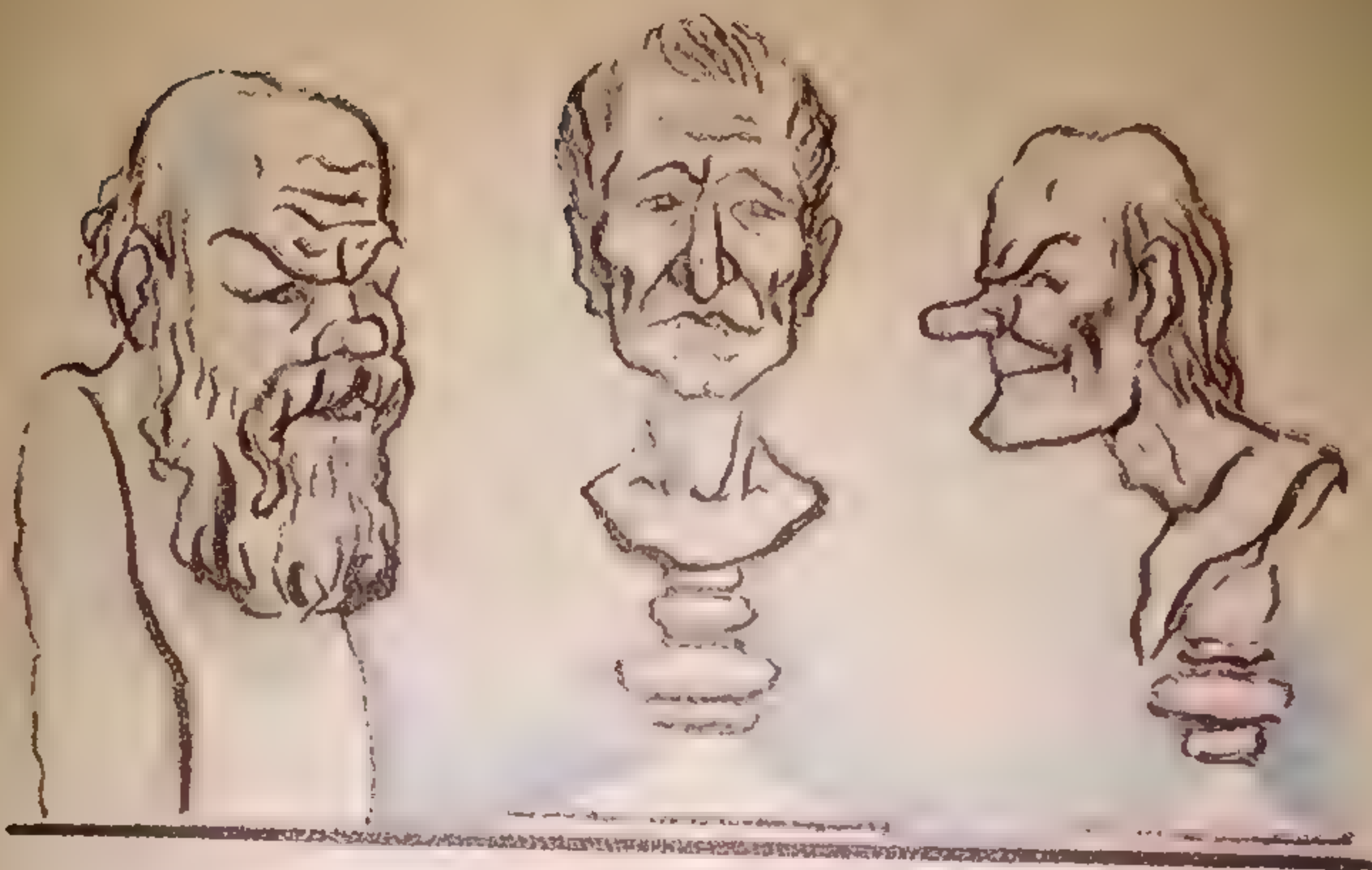
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## FAMOUS PEOPLE



1

This is a story that Charlie Chaplin liked to tell about himself. It happened when the great actor had become world famous. A theatre announced that a competition would be held to see who could act like Charlie Chaplin. Those taking part had to dress like Chaplin, walk like Chaplin and act out one of the roles in a Chaplin picture.

When Charlie Chaplin heard about the competition, he decided, as a joke, to take part in the competition himself. Naturally, he kept his plan a secret from everybody.

When the results of the competition were announced, Chaplin found out that he had failed — he hadn't won the first prize. At first he was greatly disappointed but then he decided that it would be the best to laugh.

Charles Spencer Chaplin [ˈtʃɑːlz ˈspensə ˈtʃæplɪn] — Чарлз Спенсер Чаплин (1889—1977), выдающийся американский актер и режиссер кино  
had become world famous — приобрел мировую известность  
disappointed — разочарованный

2

A young man who wanted to show that he knew Edgar Allan Poe very well once pushed his way through the crowd of people standing around the famous writer, took him by the hand, began to shake it and cried:

"Dear Edgar, I haven't seen you for ages!"

The writer looked at him in surprise and answered: "Since the day you were born, I suppose."



Edgar Allan Poe ['edgər 'ælən 'pou] — Эдгар Аллан По (1809—1849), амери-  
канский писатель, поэт и критик  
pushed his way through the crowd — пробился сквозь толпу

3

Newton was very absent-minded. One day, while he was working in his room, his servant came in with an egg that she wanted to boil for his breakfast over a special lamp that stood by his desk. Newton did not want her to interrupt his work, and he told her he would boil the egg himself. She put the egg on the desk near his watch and went away, after explaining that the egg was supposed to boil four minutes. Some time after, when she looked into the room, she saw the scientist standing near the lamp looking at the egg which he held in his hand, while the watch was boiling in the water.

Isaac Newton ['aizək 'nju:tən] — Исаак Ньютон (1642—1727), гениальный ан-  
глийский физик, математик, астроном и механик  
was supposed [sə'pouzɪd] to boil — зд. должно было вариться

4

After Columbus discovered America, he became the hero of the day and the greatest honours were assigned to him.

One of the courtiers felt indignant that a foreigner was loaded with so many honours and asked Columbus whether he thought the Indies would not have been discovered if he had not had the good fortune to find them. To this Columbus did not answer, but, taking an egg, invited the company to make it stand on one end. Everyone attempted it, but in vain.

Then Columbus took the egg, struck it upon the table so as to break the end, and left it standing on the broken part.

"Everyone might do that," exclaimed the courtier. "There is nothing in that."

"Quite right," replied Columbus, "but the only difference between me and everyone else is, I did what the others might have done."

Christopher Columbus ['krɪstəfə kə'lambəs] — Христофор Колумб (1451—1506),  
выдающийся мореплаватель

honours were assigned [ə'saɪnd] to him — ему воздавались почести  
courtier ['kɔ:tjə] — придворный

felt indignant [ɪn'dɪgnənt] — негодовал

to load with — зд. осыпать (чем-л.)

if he had not had the good fortune — если бы ему не повезло

to attempt [ə'tempt] — пытаться

in vain [veɪn] — тщетно





5

One evening Rutherford dropped into the laboratory. Though it was late, he found one of his students working with some apparatus.

"What are you doing here so late?" Rutherford asked.

"I'm working, sir," was the reply.

"And what do you do in the daytime?"

"Why, I work, of course, sir," answered the student.

"Do you work early in the morning, too?"

"Yes, I do, sir," said the student, quite sure that the famous scientist would praise him.

Rutherford looked at him gloomily: "Tell me," he asked with irritation, "when do you think?"



Ernest Rutherford [ˈɜːnɪst ˈrʌðəfəd] — Эрнест Резерфорд (1871—1937), великий английский физик

to drop into — эд. заглянуть в  
apparatus [æpəˈreɪtəs] — прибор  
gloomily [ˈɡluːmɪli] — мрачно

6

Mark Twain was a guest of honour at an opera-box party given by a prominent member of New York society. The hostess had been particularly talkative all during the performance and it made Mark Twain irritated.

Toward the end of the opera, she turned to him and said: "Oh, my dear Mr. Clemens, I do so want you to be with us next Friday evening. I'm certain you'll like it — the opera will be 'Tosca'."

"Charmed, I'm sure," replied Mark Twain, "I've never heard you in that."

Mark Twain [ˈmɑːk ˈtweɪn] (Samuel Clemens [ˈsæmjʊəl ˈkleɪmənz]) — Марк Твен (псевдоним; настоящее имя — Сэмюэл Клеменс; 1835—1910), великий американский писатель и публицист

a guest [ɡest] of honour at an opera-box party — почетный гость в ложе оперного театра

prominent [ˈprɒmɪnənt] — известный, видный

Charmed, I'm sure — эд. Буду очень рад

7

"How is that," said a gentleman to Sheridan, "that your name has no O attached to it? Your family is Irish, and no doubt illustrious?"

"No family has a better right to O than our family," said Sheridan, "for we owe everybody."

How is that...? — Как же так...?

Richard Brinsley Sheridan [ˈrɪtʃəd ˈbrɪnzli ˈʃerɪdn] — Ричард Бринсли Шеридан (1751—1816), английский драматург, ирландец по происхождению  
your name has no O attached to it — Many Irish names begin with O' [ou] — O'Neill, O'Connor, etc.

illustrious [ɪˈlʌstriəs] — прославленный, знаменитый

to owe [ou] — быть должным (кому-л.), быть в долгу (перед кем-л.)

8

A French taxi-cab driver once played a joke on Arthur Conan Doyle. The man had driven him from the station to a hotel and, when he received his fare, he said: "Thank you, Mr. Conan Doyle."

"Why, how do you know my name?" asked the writer in surprise.



"Well, sir, I have seen in the papers that you were coming from the south of France to Paris; your appearance told me that you were English, your hair had been clearly cut by a barber of the south of France. I put these indications together and guessed at once that it was you."

"That is very remarkable. You had no other evidence to go upon?"

"Well," said the man laughing, "there was also the fact that your name was on your luggage."

Arthur Conan Doyle ['ɑ:θə 'kɒnən 'dɔɪl] — Артур Конан Дойль (1859—1930), английский писатель, автор детективных новелл и повестей

fare — плата за проезд

paper — newspaper

barber — парикмахер

indication — указание

evidence ['evidəns] — основание, данные, признаки

to go upon — зд. основывать свои умозаключения

luggage ['lʌɡɪdʒ] — багаж

9

A person who dined in company with Dr. Johnson tried to please him by laughing at everything he said.

The great man bore it for some time with philosophical indifference but when the man's laughter became intolerable, he said: "Pray, sir, what's the matter? I hope I have not said anything that you can understand."

Samuel Johnson ['sæmjʊəl 'dʒɒnsn] — Сэмюэл Джонсон (1709—1784), английский писатель, лексикограф и литературный критик

to bear (bore, born) — терпеть, выносить

indifference [ɪn'dɪfrəns] — равнодушие, безразличие

intolerable [ɪn'tɒlərəbl] — невыносимый

Pray — зд. Позвольте

10

Jack London was late in delivering a story which he promised a New York magazine.

The editor, after repeated efforts to get the story, at last called at London's hotel and sent up the following note:

"Dear Jack London! If I don't receive the story within twenty-four hours, I'll come up to your room and kick you downstairs, and I always keep my promises."

London replied: "Dear Dick! If I did all my work with my feet, I'd keep my promises too."



Jack London ['dʒæk 'lɒndən] — Джек Лондон (1876—1916), американский писатель

to deliver — зд. представить

effort ['efət] — попытка

within [wɪ'ðɪn] — зд. в течение

to kick — лягнуть; to kick downstairs — спустить с лестницы

to keep one's promise ['prɒmɪs] — держать обещание

## 11

Scott, the great explorer, applied to Lloyd George for assistance for his last polar expedition. The Chancellor, as he then was, advised Scott to see a certain rich man who was interested in polar research. The explorer did so, and again called on Lloyd George.

"Were you successful?" asked the Chancellor.

"He's giving me a thousand," was the reply, "but promises to raise it to £ 50,000 if I can persuade you to come with me, and I'm to have a million if I manage to leave you there."

Robert Scott ['rɒbət 'skɒt] — Роберт Скотт (1868—1912), английский полярный исследователь

David Lloyd George ['deɪvɪd 'lɔɪd 'dʒɔ:dʒ] — Дэвид Ллойд Джордж (1863—1945), английский реакционный политический деятель

to apply for assistance — обратиться за помощью

polar ['pəʊlə] — полярный

Chancellor ['ʃænsələ] канцлер (министр финансов Великобритании)

## 12

Einstein, one of the greatest scientists, gave what he considered the best formula for success in life.

"If A is success in life, I should say the formula is A equals X plus Y plus Z, X being work and Y being play."

"And what is Z?" asked the interviewer.

"That," he answered, "is keeping your mouth shut."

Albert Einstein ['ælbət 'aɪnstəɪn] — Альберт Эйнштейн (1879—1955), великий ученый, физик

equals ['iːkwəlz] — зд. равно, равняется

to keep one's mouth shut — держать язык за зубами

## 13

Stepping out between the acts of the first production of one of his plays Bernard Shaw said to the audience: "What do you think of it?"

Everybody was silent for a moment, but then a man in the pit cried out: "Rotten!"

Shaw bowed and smiled.



"My friend," he said, shrugging his shoulders and showing to the crowd in front. "I quite agree with you but what are we two against so many?"

to step out — зд. выйти на сцену

production — зд. постановка

George Bernard Shaw ['dʒɔ:dʒ 'bɛ:nəd 'ʃɔ:] — Джордж Бернард Шоу (1856—1950), выдающийся английский драматург и публицист

pit — партер

Rotten! — Отвратительно!

## 14

Mark Twain once said:

"Speaking of fresh eggs, I always remember the town of Squash. In my early lecturing days I went to Squash to lecture there. The town seemed very poorly billed. I thought I'd find out if the people knew anything at all about the lecture that was going to be in the evening. So I turned in at the store. 'Good afternoon, friend,' I said to the storekeeper. 'Any entertainment here tonight to help a stranger while away his evening?' The storekeeper answered: 'I expect there's going to be a lecture. I've been selling eggs all day.'"

Squash [skwɒʃ] — з. Сквош

In my early lecturing days — В самом начале моей лекторской деятельности

The town seemed very poorly billed. — В городе было мало афиш.

to turn in at — зд. заглянуть, завернуть в

store — магазин, лавка

entertainment [ˌentə'teɪnmənt] — развлечение

to while away one's evening — скоротать вечер

## 15

A young composer once brought a manuscript to Rossini, who, while listening, every minute took off his hat and put it on again. The composer asked Rossini whether he was so warm.

"No," said the great composer, "but I am in the habit of taking off my hat whenever I meet an old acquaintance, and there are so many I remember in your composition, that I have continually to bow."

manuscript ['mænɪskript] — рукопись

Rossini [rɒ'sɪni] — Россини (1792—1868), великий итальянский композитор

to be in the habit of doing smth — иметь привычку делать что-л

continually [kən'tɪnjuəli] — постоянно, непрерывно

to bow [baʊ] — кланяться



Napoleon was one day looking for a book in his library, and at last discovered it on a shelf somewhat above his reach. Marshal Moncey, one of the tallest men in the army, stepped forward saying:

"Permit me, sire; I am higher than your majesty."

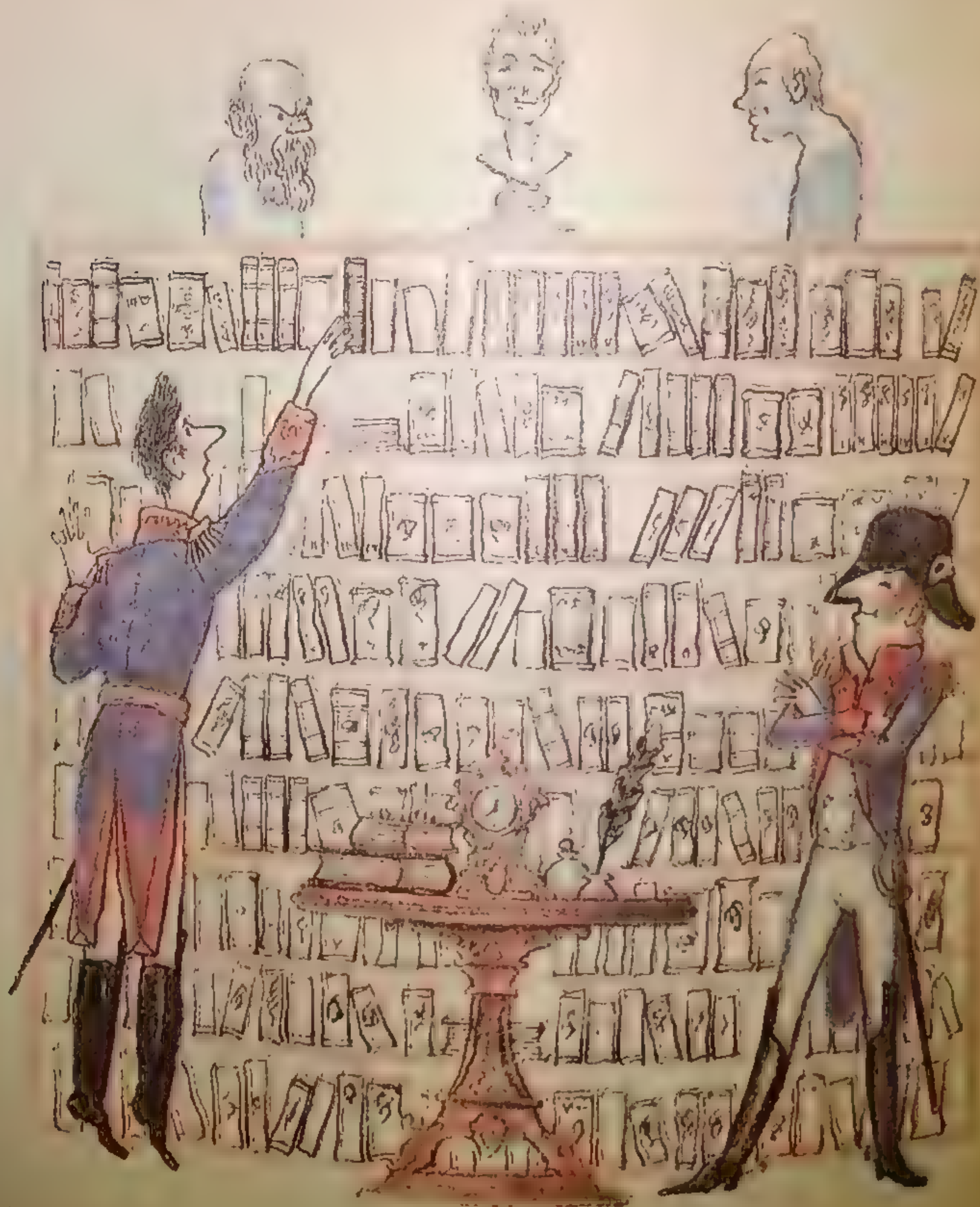
"You are longer, marshal," said the emperor with a frown.

Napoleon Bonaparte [nə'pouljən 'bɒnəpɑ:t] — Наполеон Бонапарт (1769—1821), выдающийся французский полководец и политический деятель

on a shelf somewhat above his reach — на полке, до которой он не мог дотянуться

Permit me [pə'mɪt] — Разрешите мне

sire ['saɪə] — ваше величество, сир





Franklin, when he was ambassador to France, being at a meeting of a literary society, and not well understanding French, decided to applaud when he saw a lady of his acquaintance do it. When the meeting was over, a little child, who understood French, came up to him and said:

"But, Grandpa, you always applauded the loudest when they were praising you!"

Franklin laughed heartily and explained everything.

Benjamin Franklin ['bendʒəmɪn 'fræŋklɪn] — Бенджамин Франклин (1706—1790), выдающийся американский политический деятель, дипломат, крупный ученый и писатель

ambassador [æm'bæsədə] — посол

a lady of his acquaintance его знакомая дама

Daniel Webster once wrote a letter for his servant. Then he asked him:

"Is there anything else you wish to say, Mike?"

The servant thought a little and said:

"Yes, if you please. Just say they must excuse the poor scholarship and want of sense the letter shows."

Daniel Webster ['dænjəl 'webstə] — Даниэль Вебстер (1782—1852), американский политический деятель и адвокат

poor scholarship — зд. безграмотность

want of sense — недостаток здравого смысла

A friend once wrote Mark Twain a letter saying that he was in very bad health, and concluding: "Is there anything worse than having toothache and earache at the same time?"

The humorist wrote back: "Yes, rheumatism and St Vitus's dance."

that he was in very bad health — что он тяжело болен

to conclude [kən'klud] — заключить

toothache ['tu:θeɪk] — зубная боль

earache ['iərəɪk] — боль в ухе

rheumatism ['ru:mətɪzəm] — ревматизм (болезнь, симптомом которой является боль в суставах)

St. Vitus's [snt'vaɪtəsɪz] dance — пляска святого Витта (болезнь, характеризующаяся дрожанием конечностей)



Sheridan was once staying at the house of an old lady in the country who wanted more of his company than he was willing to give.

One day she wanted Sheridan to take a walk with her but he excused himself on account of bad weather. Soon afterwards she met him walking alone.

"So, Mr. Sheridan," said she, "it has cleared up."

"Just a little, ma'am — enough for one, but not enough for two."

excused himself on account of — отказался, сославшись на  
to clear up — проясниться (о погоде)

An unknown writer was complaining to Oscar Wilde about the neglect of his poems by the press: "It is a complete conspiracy of silence. What ought I to do, Oscar?"

"Join it," replied Wilde.

to complain [kəm'pleɪn] — жаловаться

about the neglect [nɪ'glekt] of his poems by the press — на то, что в газетах  
никогда не упоминаются его стихи

Oscar Wilde [ˈɒskə 'waɪld] — Оскар Уайльд (1856—1900), английский писатель

conspiracy [kən'spɪrəsi] — заговор

to join [dʒɔɪn] — примкнуть к (кому-л., чему-л.)

An American once wrote to Kipling, saying: "I hear that you are retailing literature at one dollar a word. I enclose one dollar for which please send me a sample."

Kipling kept the dollar and wrote: "Thanks."

Two weeks later the American wrote, "Sold the 'Thanks' anecdote for two dollars. Enclosed please find forty-five cents in stamps, that being half the profits on the transaction, less the postage."

Rudyard Kipling [ˈrʌdjəd 'kɪplɪŋ] — Редьярд Киплинг (1865—1936), английский писатель

to retail — продавать в розницу

to enclose — вкладывать (в письмо)

sample ['sɑːmpl] — образец

half the profits on the transaction [træn'zækʃən], less the postage ['pəʊstɪdʒ] —  
половина дохода от сделки за вычетом почтовых расходов



A nobleman wished Garrick to be candidate for the representation of a borough in Parliament.

"No, my lord," said the actor. "I would rather play the part of a great man on the stage than the part of a fool in Parliament."

David Garrick ['deivid 'gærɪk] — Дэвид Гаррик (1717—1779), знаменитый английский актер, прославившийся исполнением ролей в пьесах Шекспира

to be candidate for the representation of a borough ['bʌrə] in Parliament ['pɑːləmənt] — выставить свою кандидатуру в парламент

I would rather ['ræðə] — я предпочитаю

part — зр. роль

"No man is so well known as he thinks he is," once said Enrico Caruso, the world famed tenor. "While motoring in New York State," continued the great singer, "the automobile broke down and I found refuge in a farmhouse while the car was being repaired. I became friendly with the farmer who asked me my name, and I told him it was Caruso. The farmer rose to his feet and seized me by the hand. 'Little did I think I would see a man like you in my humble kitchen, sir!' he exclaimed. 'Caruso! The great traveller, Robinson Caruso!'"

Enrico Caruso [en'riku kə'ru:zu] — Энрико Карузо (1873—1921), знаменитый итальянский певец

world famed = world famous

to find refuge ['refju:dʒ] — зр. найти пристанище

Little did I think — Мог ли я когда-либо подумать

humble ['hʌmbəl] — скромный

Whistler, a well-known painter, was at a dinner one night, and an awful bore came up to him and said, "Do you know, Mr. Whistler, I passed by your house last night."

"Thanks," said Whistler.

James Whistler ['dʒeɪmz 'wɪslə] — Джеймс Уистлер (1834—1903), американский живописец и график

bore — зануда

to pass by — 1. проходить мимо;

2. оставлять без внимания

Charles Dickens used to tell a story of a young lady, who, being loved by five young men, was advised "to jump overboard,



and marry the man who jumped in after her". So the next morning, the five lovers being on deck and looking very devotedly at the young lady, she plunged into the sea. Four of the lovers immediately jumped in after her. When the young lady and the four lovers were out again, she asked the captain:

"What am I to do with them now, they are so wet?"

"Take the dry one," was the answer.

And the young lady did so and married him.

Charles Dickens [ˈtʃɑːlz ˈdɪkɪnz]  
английский писатель

Чарлз Диккенс (1812—1870), выдающийся





overboard [ˈoʊvəbɔ:d] — за борт  
lover — эд. влюбленный, поклонник  
on deck — на палубе  
to plunge [plʌndʒ] — эд. нырять

27

Mark Twain once said: "When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant that I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years."

ignorant [ˈɪgnərənt] — невежественный

I could hardly stand to have the old man around — я с трудом выносил общество старика

28

A very talkative youth wanted Socrates to teach him oratory. He expected the philosopher to work wonders, for in his case the teacher would deal with a very gifted pupil. He begged Socrates to hear him speak on some subject. Socrates let him talk as much as he liked and then said:

"I'll have to charge you double, for I'll have to teach you two sciences: how to speak and how to hold your tongue."

Socrates [ˈsɒkrətiːz] — Сократ (ок. 469—399 до н. э.), древнегреческий философ

oratory [ˈɒrətəri] — ораторское искусство

to work wonders — творить чудеса

gifted — одаренный

to charge smb double — взять с кого-л. двойную плату

to hold one's tongue — помалкивать, держать язык за зубами

29

Dr. Johnson was not fond of the theatre, actors and actresses. Nevertheless once he complimented Mrs. Siddons, the great English actress, in his own particular way. Some very important matters made her call on him one day. But as a guest was a rare thing at his place, he could not immediately provide her with a chair.

"You see, madam, wherever you are there are no seats to be got!" said the master of the house, and the celebrated actress blushed with pleasure at the unexpected homage to her talent.

nevertheless [ˌnevəðəˈles] — тем не менее

Sarah Siddons [ˈsærə ˈsɪdnz] — Сара Сиддонс (1755—1831), выдающаяся английская актриса

in his own particular way — эд. по-своему



to provide smb with smth — обеспечить кого-л. чем-л.  
seat — 1. место для сидения;

-2. место (в театре); билет (в театр)

homage ['hɒmɪdʒ] — зд. дань уважения

### 30

Once Mark Twain was fishing. A man came along and asked him:

"Are you catching any fish?"

"I caught fifteen trout yesterday," Mark Twain said.

"Is that so?" said the man. "Well, do you know who I am?"

"No," said Mark Twain.

"I am the game warden of this place and trout is out of season," answered the man.

"By the way, do you know who I am?"

"No," replied the game warden.

"Well, I am the biggest liar in this place," said Mark Twain.

trout [traʊt] — (pl без измен.) форель

game warden ['wɜːdn] — инспектор по охране дичи (рыбы)

trout is out of season — в это время года не разрешается ловить форель

liar ['laɪə] — лгун

### 31

Sheridan, the famous English playwright, wanted his son Tom to marry a rich young woman. Tom was in love with a penniless girl and refused to obey his father. Sheridan got angry with his son and threatened him:

"If you don't obey me immediately, I shall cut you off with a shilling."

"When you really make up your mind to cut me off with a shilling," said the youth, "you'll have to borrow it first, sir."

Sheridan burst out laughing and dropped the subject altogether.

playwright ['pleɪraɪt] — драматург

penniless — не имеющий ни гроша

to threaten ['θreɪn] — угрожать

to cut smb off with a shilling — лишить кого-л. наследства (букв. оставить в наследство шиллинг)

dropped the subject altogether [ˌɔːltə'geðə] — больше не возвращался к этой теме

### 32

When Walter Scott was a boy at school, he wished very much to stand at the top of the class. There was, however, another boy who always held that place, and nothing that Walter could do made any difference.



One day Scott noticed that whenever the top boy was asked a question, he always fingered a certain button on his waistcoat, and that seemed to help him in giving the answer. Then Walter decided to cut off this button without attracting the owner's notice.

The next time when the top boy was asked a question, his hand went to the usual button, but it was not there. He looked for it, but it was not to be seen. So in his confusion he remained silent, and Scott took his place.

The boy never recovered it, nor did he find out who had played the trick upon him.

Walter Scott ['wɔ:lɪə 'skɒt] Вальтер Скотт (1771—1832), выдающийся английский писатель

to stand at the top of the class быть лучшим учеником в классе

to finger — 30 трогать, орудовать

waistcoat ['weɪskəʊt] жилет

it was not to be seen — его видеть не было

in his confusion в замешательстве

to recover — возвращать себе

to play a trick upon smb сыграть шутку с кем-л

### 33

Remarque, the well-known German writer, was talking to an American girl in Berlin. She asked him in German why he had never visited the United States. He answered that he knew only a few sentences in English.

"What are these sentences?" inquired the girl.

"How do you do? I love you. Forgive me. Forget me. Ham and eggs, please," said Remarque.

"Sakes alive!" cried the American girl. "Why, with that vocabulary you could tour my country from Maine to California."

Erich Maria Remarque ['erɪk mə'riə rɪ'mɑ:k] — Эрих Мария Ремарк (1898—1970), немецкий писатель

Sakes alive! — амер. Вот это да! (Ну и ну!)

to tour [tuə] a country — путешествовать по стране

Maine [meɪn] — Мэн (штат на северо-востоке США)

California [ˌkælɪ'fɔ:njə] — Калифорния (штат на юго-западе США)

### 34

Balzac, the famous French writer, was a man of great talent. But he himself was more proud of his ability to tell a person's character by his or her handwriting. He often told his friends that he could tell anybody's character exactly by his handwriting.



One day a woman friend brought him a young boy's exercise book. She said that she wanted to know what Balzac thought of the boy's character.

Balzac studied the handwriting carefully for a few minutes. The woman, however, told him that the boy was not her son and that he might tell her the truth.

"All right!" said Balzac, "I'll tell you the truth." And he told her that the boy was a bad, lazy fellow.

"It's very strange," said the woman smiling. "This is a page from your own exercise book, which you used when you were a boy."

Balzac ['bælzæk] — Бальзак (1799—1850), великий французский писатель  
ability [ə'bɪlɪtɪ] — способность  
handwriting — почерк

35

Franz Joseph Haydn, the well-known Austrian composer, asked a music seller if he had any especially beautiful music to show him.

"Certainly," replied the shopman. "I have some excellent music of Haydn's."

"Oh, no," answered the composer, "I'll have nothing to do with that."

"Why, sir! You'll have nothing to do with Haydn's music! And pray, sir, what fault have you to find with it?"

"Well, it's useless talking of it; show me some other."

The music seller was a warm admirer of Haydn, and he replied angrily:

"No, sir, I have some music, it is true, but not for such as you," and he turned his back upon him.

As Haydn was going away smiling, a gentleman who knew him entered and greeted the composer, calling him by his name. The shopman, still angry, turned round at the name and said to the gentleman:

"Haydn! Don't mention the name to that fellow, he doesn't like the great man's music."

Franz Joseph Haydn ['frænts 'dʒouzɪf 'haɪdn] — Франц Иосиф Гайдн (1732—1809),  
великий австрийский композитор

music — 1. музыка;

2. ноты

I'll have nothing to do with that. — Это меня не интересует.

what fault have you to find with it? — чем же она вам не нравится?

warm admirer [əd'maɪərə] — горячий почитатель

to turn one's back upon smb — повернуться спиной к кому-л.

A man  
More, the  
man careful  
of print, ret  
if it were in  
The man  
matter into  
statesman a  
"Yes, ce  
reply, "for  
rhyme nor

Thomas More  
мыслитель  
"Utopia" [ju:'tɒ  
for his judgem  
worthy ['wə:ðɪ  
in verse — в с  
rhyme [raɪm]  
neither rhyme

Robert B  
when a rich  
and would  
of his own  
Having  
the sailor  
time had c  
of the sum,  
"For," s  
the best jud

Robert Burns  
поэт Шотл  
Greenock ['grɪn  
at the risk of  
to recover — з  
light — испуг  
insignificance  
to interfere [ɪn  
the gentleman  
сколько с



A man who had written a book brought it to Sir Thomas More, the author of "Utopia", for his judgement. The great man carefully read the book, and finding in it nothing worthy of print, returned it to its author, saying that it would be better if it were in verse.

The man immediately set to work and, having turned the matter into verse, brought it again to the celebrated writer and statesman and asked for his opinion.

"Yes, certainly, it is something now," was Thomas More's reply, "for now there is rhyme while formerly there was neither rhyme nor reason."

Thomas More ['təməs 'mɔː] — Томас Мор (1478—1535), выдающийся английский мыслитель-гуманист, государственный деятель

"Utopia" [ju:'təʊpiə] — «Утопия», книга Томаса Мора

for his judgement — по суждению

worthy ['wɜːði] of print — заслуживающий публикации

in verse — в стихах

rhyme [raɪm] — рифма

neither rhyme nor reason — ни складу ни ладу

Robert Burns was walking in the port of Greenock one day, when a rich merchant fell into the water. He could not swim and would certainly have drowned, but a sailor, at the risk of his own life, saved him.

Having recovered a little from his fright the merchant thanked the sailor and gave him a shilling. The crowd, which by that time had collected, loudly protested against the insignificance of the sum, but Burns begged them not to interfere.

"For," said he with a smile, "the gentleman is, of course, the best judge of the value of his own life."

Robert Burns ['rɒbəʔ 'bɜːnz] — Роберт Бернс (1759—1796), великий национальный поэт Шотландии

Greenock ['grɪnək] — г. Гринок

at the risk of his own life — рискуя собственной жизнью

to recover — зд. оправиться, прийти в себя

fright — испуг

insignificance [ɪn'sɪɡnɪfɪkəns] — зд. ничтожность

to interfere [ɪntə'fɪə] — вмешиваться

the gentleman is... the best judge of the value of — джентльмену лучше знать, сколько стоит



Swift was not very generous. One of his friends often sent him presents that were always brought by the same boy, but the boy never received anything for his trouble.

One day the boy brought Swift some game. He opened the door without knocking and said: "Master sends you this."

"Young man," said Swift, "is that the way to deliver a present? I'll teach you better manners. Let's change parts. Sit down in my chair, and I'll show you how you should have done it."

The boy sat down at the writer's table, and Swift left the room. Then he knocked at the door, opened it, and taking off his hat, came up to the boy, bowed and said:



"Sir,  
take a little  
Does  
and take  
Swift  
ready wit.

Jonathan Sw  
английск  
generous ['dʒ  
for his troubl  
game — дичь  
to deliver —  
to change pa  
to beg — про  
half-crown —  
ready wit —



"Sir, my master hopes that you are well and begs you to take a little present."

"Does he?" replied the boy. "Then return him my best thanks, and take this half-crown for your trouble."

Swift laughed heartily and gave the boy a crown for his ready wit.

Jonathan Swift ['dʒɒnəθən 'swɪft] — Джонатан Свифт (1667—1745), великий английский писатель-сатирик

generous ['dʒenərəs] — щедрый

for his trouble — за труды

game — дичь

to deliver — доставлять, вручать

to change parts — поменяться ролями

to beg — просить

half-crown — полкроны (crown — корона, монета достоинством в 5 шиллингов)

ready wit — остроумие, находчивость



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